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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 51

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13, 2013

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



A judge strikes down New York City's pioneering ban on big sugary drinks.

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ASIA



North Korea's leader urges troops to be on alert for a potential war.

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What you 'like' on Facebook can be quite revealing.

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Amelia Earhart experts push for CNMI Cultural Center. PAGE 3
Hotels' occupancy rate at 94 pct. in February. PAGE 5

No K9 unit for 9 months now



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» All customs dog handlers left, detector dogs sit idle

For at least nine months now, the Division of Customs' K-9 program has not been operational after the last of its nine drug- and bomb-detector dog handlers left the division, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday. The division has yet to replace any of the certified dog handlers due to a lack of funding.

This has left four highly trained dogs sitting idle since June 2012.

The situation has resulted in incoming luggage and passengers, including those deemed high-risk for illegal drugs and explosives, being manually inspected by also a limited number of customs personnel. This means inspections take longer than when dogs are used.

Moreover, two of the Division of Customs' x-ray vans have also not been repaired since breaking down about a year ago. These vans help make inspections of cargo, especially at the sea-

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OPA files 7 criminal charges vs Fitial

» Wiseman says arrest warrant will be issued if Fitial fails to appear and answer allegations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has filed seven criminal charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial for allegedly conspiring with others to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August last year.

OPA chief investigator Juan M. Santos said there is sufficient probable cause to issue a penal summons

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, confers with visiting U.S. Department of the Interior's Angie Williams, right, during a break in a meeting yesterday afternoon on Capital Hill among officials from the CNMI, the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory on a CNMI Strategic Energy Plan. The Interior-funded plan presents options for the CNMI so that stakeholders can make educated decisions to select which among renewable or alternative energy options will best suit the islands: solar, wind, hydrokinetic, geothermal, modular nuclear, or liquefied natural gas. The CNMI is also expected to adopt this week an energy action plan.

Faisao turns in resignation; reshuffle continues

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday that Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao turned in his courtesy resignation but Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider have yet to decide on it.



Faisao

"Faisao's resignation is still pending before the governor. He has not made a decision at this time. Without a decision, the governor has not discussed the issue of replacement," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune sources, however, said that an incumbent lawmaker is eyeing the position of

DCCA secretary. The administration and the lawmaker declined comment on the matter.

If and when the lawmaker becomes a Cabinet member, a special election may have to be held to fill any vacancy in the 20-member House less than half of the current term.

Moreover, *Saipan Tribune* sources said that former lieutenant governor and

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Local

Umang Glee bags 3 golds, 1 silver at Guam music fest



Members of the victorious group pose with their principal and mentors during a break at the Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam last week.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club went home victorious after it bagged three gold awards and a silver at the weeklong Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam.

The Umang Glee Club emerged victorious in both the festival's small ensemble category and elementary choral competition, while veteran member Leonard Manuel topped the solo competition category.

Glee's soloist Ciscabelle David was

presented with the silver award.

According to club music director Karen Ann Alla, this was the group's third year of consistently receiving gold awards in the categories they joined in. She revealed that its elementary students from third to sixth grade also performed well at the festival.

The Umangs are the only active elementary glee club in the Public School System and have always brought honor and pride to the school, PSS, and the community since it started in 2008. Every year, Alla said, they get new members and each year they bring out the

best in each student.

"These students and their parents have worked hard to make this trip possible. We are thankful that a lot of people supports and believes in us. We dedicate this award to all of them," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the club was only able to send 18 students to the Guam competition this year due to lack of funds. The group competed in solo, small ensemble, and choral category.

The Umang Glee Club has won many local competitions and performs in school and community events.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian lawmakers OK \$1.7M appropriation

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian lawmakers passed yesterday three separate local bills appropriating and re-appropriating a total of more than \$1.7 million for Tinian patients, scholars, and other programs and activities. The bills now go to the governor for action.

By a vote of 4-0, the Tinian and Aguiñan Legislative Delegation passed Rep. Trenton Conner's (Ind-Tinian) House Local Bill 18-1, appropriating \$40,000 in poker license fee collections mostly for the monthly subsistence allowance of Tinian patients on dialysis, those with cancer, multiple sclerosis, debilitating epilepsy seizure disorder, dermatomyositis as well as post-cerebral vascular accident patients.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), however, offered floor amendments that the delegation adopted. The amendments include ensuring that \$27,000 is equally distributed among Tinian patients, and removing the initial proposal to cap the monthly disbursement at only up to \$4,500.

"It's long overdue; it should have been paid since July, so we want to make sure the \$27,000 is fully disbursed equally among patients," Cruz said.

His other amendment is to clarify that those patients who have been new-

ly certified would be eligible for subsistence allowance only on the date they were certified eligible and forward.

HLB 18-1 also gives the mayor of Tinian \$7,000 to buy two riding mowers; \$4,000 to Tinian Health Center for emergency medical referral assistance for patients from Tinian; and \$2,000 to replace the airconditioning unit at the Tinian Senior Citizens' Center.

The Tinian lawmakers also passed Conner's HLB 18-2, re-appropriating \$36,948 from Tinian Local Laws 17-8, 17-10 and 17-11, for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship.

The delegation, whose members also include Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian) as chairman and Sen. Joaquin Borja (R-Tinian), also passed Conner's HLB 18-6, appropriating \$94,000 in poker license fee collections for patients and other programs and activities.

Of the total amount, \$27,000 goes to Tinian patients' subsistence allowance while they're on Saipan; \$7,000 for Tinian Little League; \$15,000 for the Department of Public Safety-Fire Division's fire truck repair and another \$2,500 for fuel; \$30,000 for the Tinian Municipal Scholarship; \$5,000 for the Tinian Mayor's Office emergency medical referral payments; \$2,500 for Freedom Air; \$2,500 for Star Marianas; and \$7,500 for the Public School System's youth program.

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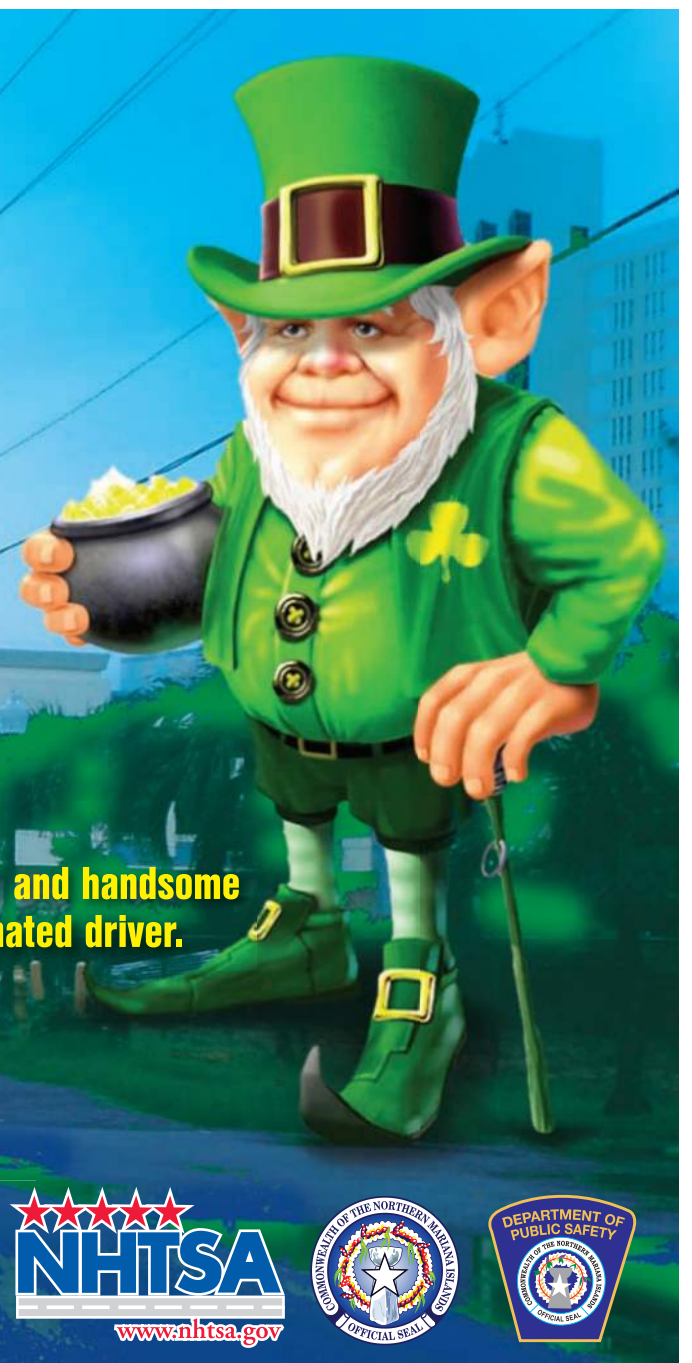


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Amelia Earhart experts push for CNMI Cultural Center

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A team of researchers doing investigative work in the Northern Marianas on the mystery surrounding famed American aviatrix Amelia Earhart's disappearance is reviving efforts to have a CNMI Cultural Center built on Saipan.

Capt. Paul H. Cooper, one of two guest speakers at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday, said the center could accommodate not just the world-class Amelia Earhart exhibition the team is putting together but also the CNMI museum.

Cooper said he found the 2005 plan for the proposed \$20-million center during discussions with Chuck Jordan, who served as director of the Office of Planning and Statistics for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

"This program is something 'CHC needs biomed department'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center needs a biomed department that will maintain and fix its medical tools and equipment, according to a report prepared by the Commissioned Corps Hospital Assistance Team.

The creation of a biomed department will safeguard the delivery of healthcare services and sustain the hospital's progress, according to the "Sustainability Plan" the team submitted to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. last Friday.

The team said that the current system is ineffective in capturing all required preventive maintenance across the corporation in an organized, systematic manner.

"Stand up a biomed department to ensure appropriate, cost-effective repair and preventive maintenance planning and activities are ongoing," states the report.

Equipment repair and maintenance at CHC came to a screeching halt starting last year following the failure of the cash-strapped healthcare corporation to pay its vendor.

Pacific Biomedical Services Inc., which has been maintaining the hospital's equipment for more than a decade, put on hold all its services on Jan. 15, 2012, until the corporation is able to come up with a payment plan.

It was learned that the vendor's contract was reinstated soon after Medicare placed the hospital on an immediate jeopardy status in September last year.

PBSI is only one of the many service providers at the hospital that have been expe-

riencing delays in their collection of payments.

At the last CHCC board meeting, Dr. Sharlene Osman, director for Medical Affairs, disclosed that only one person repairs the equipment at the dialysis unit.

Despite the recurring concern of Medicare to hire more biomed, Osman said that this has not happened and it continues to be a concern.

The team of federal medical experts also recommended creating a completely separate facilities management department.

This autonomous section would have a dedicated facilities engineer, maintenance supervisor, energy manager, administrative assistant, appropriate journeyman level, maintenance workers, and laborers.

"The CHCC has high utility bills for water, sewer, and power. Opportunities exist to reduce the use of water and electricity if actively managed. A dedicated energy manager position would easily pay for itself by an estimated utility savings of \$20,000 per month," said the team in its report.

For the facilities manager position, the team strongly recommends a USPHS officer on the basis of cost-effectiveness and accountability. The facilities manager should visit outlying clinics at least quarterly.

The purchase of a maintenance software package to track work orders, schedule preventative maintenance and document environment of care requirements was also advised. This software should be used corporation-wide, to include outlying clinics.

All recommendations should be in place by December 2013, the team said.

that Saipan needs," said Cooper, a pilot for Southwest Airlines, adding that their team already created a committee to do due diligence to ensure that the project prospers.

According to Cooper, there are grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other funding sources that could subsidize the construction of the center.

"There's plenty [of] available grants to do this project. We just need the people of Saipan to get behind this. We're gathering our resources to bring this forward. I'm excited to be able to share this with you today because the center is what's best for Saipan," he told Rotarians.

Cooper's team is doing research on Earhart, the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, who disappeared in 1937 aboard a Lockheed Electra Model 10 during an attempt to circum-

navigate the globe.

"Our reason is to solve this aviation mystery that's been plaguing the world for the last 70 years," said Cooper.

The team is composed of Cooper, film director, producer, screenwriter, and freelance journalist Richard Martini, and aircraft recovery lead investigator Michael Harris.

Harris, who also appeared before the Rotary Club of Saipan in January, said at the time that his visit is to make a documentary on the Naval Construction Battalions, popularly known as Seabees "because we didn't want the word to get out about the Ame-

lia Earhart research that we're doing," said Cooper.

"A lot of people out there don't want us to succeed," he said.

Cooper said eyewitness accounts from a dozen U.S. Marines, plus over 200 from various Pacific territories attest that Earhart's plane was shot down and was taken to several islands before it was finally brought to Saipan.

"Her airplane was found here in 1944 by the U.S. Marines when they invaded Saipan. It was flown after they found the airplane then it was destroyed," he said.

According to Cooper, some 20 eyewitnesses they interviewed on Saipan corroborate that Earhart indeed spent time on island during the Japanese occupation of the Northern Marianas.

Another group, The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, is convinced that Earhart went down in Nikumaroro island, about 400 miles southeast of Earhart's intended destination, Howland Island.

"They don't have one piece of evidence. They don't have an eyewitness. Now, have I found a piece of the airplane? Not yet. But I'm close, I believe. The way the dominoes have fallen since I've been here, if my footsteps weren't guided by God, it would not

have been possible for me to discover what I've discovered since I've been here. The whole team has just been totally blessed with this experience," said Cooper.



Cooper

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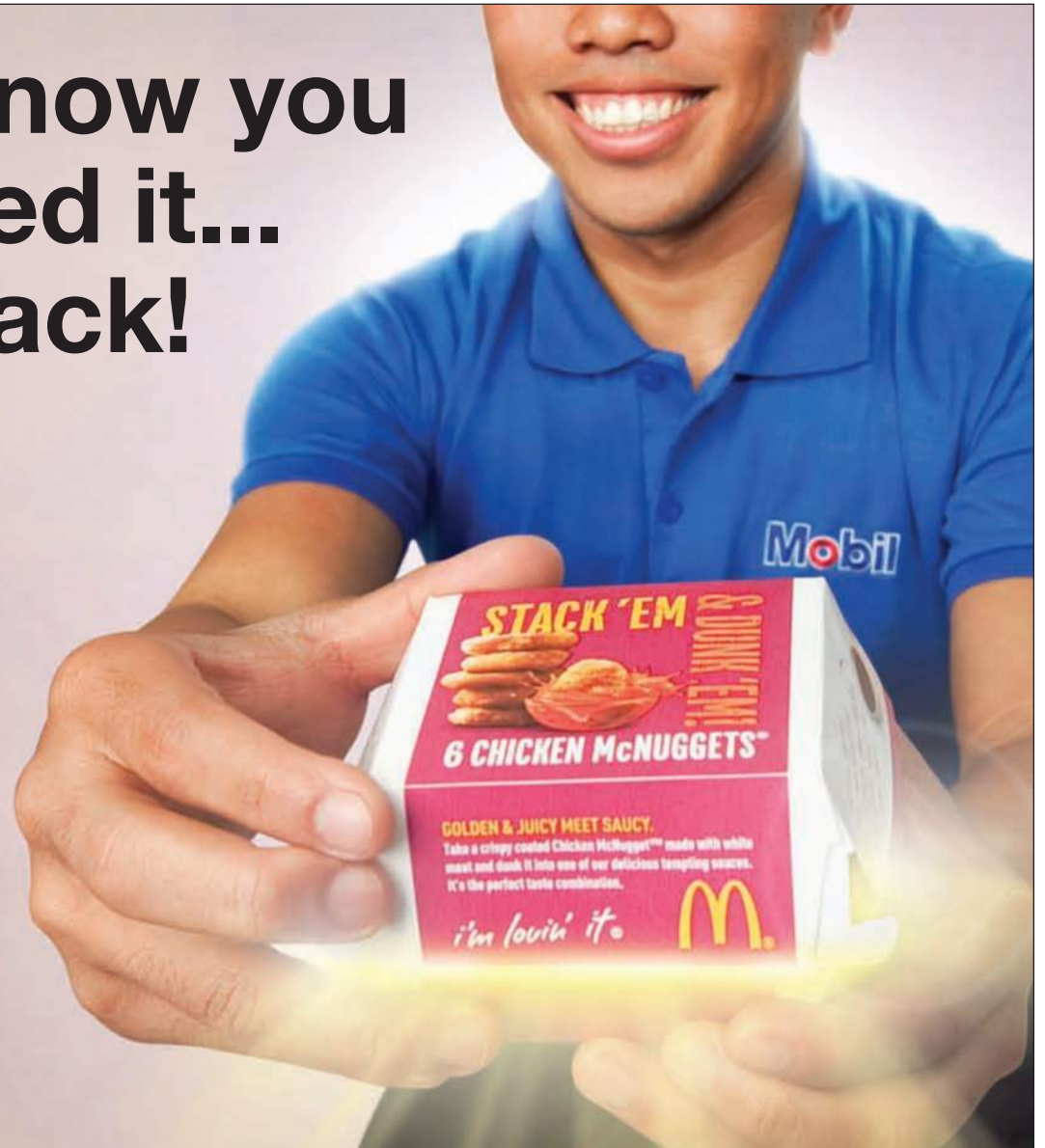
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Recognition of Chamorros as 'Native Americans' sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) pre-filed yesterday a resolution urging Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to request U.S. Congress "to officially acknowledge the Chamorro people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as Native Americans" to further protect their culture.

The Chamorro people of the CNMI are a distinct cultural ethnic group that has existed for thousands of years. They have continued to practice their own language, traditions, and cultural

» Governor also urged to appoint special representative for 902 talks

practices despite centuries of having the islands under Spanish, German, Japanese, and American control.

Hocog's Senate Resolution 18-10, to be introduced at the Senate's session on Rota Friday morning, seeks Sablan's

help in including the Chamorro people in the definition of "Native Americans" under federal law.

"Visible and verifiable evidences are

slowly occurring with respect to dramatic changes in the language, traditions, and culture of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands thereby affording the Chamorro people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands full integration and inclu-

sion under 25 U.S.C. 450(b)(e) as a Native American Indian Tribe, known as I Man Chamorro Na Taotaogui," the resolution reads.

902 talks rep

Hocog also pre-filed a resolution requesting Gov. Eloy S. Inos to appoint a special representative for 902 talks to discuss matters that are currently affecting the relationship between the NMI and the U.S. pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant.

The senator cited specific issues that needed NMI-U.S. discussions, including federalization of labor and immigration, the National Marine Monument, the U.S. Interior report on status of foreign workers in the CNMI, and submerged lands.

Sequestration to cost NMHC \$198K in housing voucher funds

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. stands to lose \$198,683 or 6 percent in annual funding for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program in fiscal year 2013 as a result of across-the-board federal budget cuts.

This translates to a minimum of 18 families with rents between \$900 and \$1,000 likely to be impacted by the sequestration. Agency officials, however, assured yesterday that NMHC has set aside reserves and began as early as January implementing "mitigating strategies" to lessen the impact of budget cuts without having to remove clients under the HCV program.

The Commonwealth's key provider for housing, mortgage, and community development programs relies on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for funding.

HUD assistant secretary Sandra Henriquez, in a March 7 letter to NMHC and other public housing agen-

cies nationwide, said the sequestration resulted in a 94.1 percent proration for HCV renewal funding and a 68.5 percent administrative fee proration, which could cause "major challenges" in the management of HCV programs.

Given the sequestration cuts that took effect on March 1, HUD has asked PHAs in February to take measures to cope with the funding cuts.

"The last thing our agency wants to do is remove families from the program. Therefore, it is incumbent upon NMHC to ensure that all mitigating measures have been instituted and exhausted before we resort to attrition," said corporate director Jesse Palacios.

As part of its strategy, NMHC temporarily stopped issuing vouchers and approving unit-transfers, port-outs, and landlord rent increase requests starting January, said Program and Housing Division manager Kim Rosario. To date, the agency has eight available vouchers out of the 363 vouchers NMHC is allowed to issue.

Rosario noted that NMHC has used

only 99 percent of its budget, which means that it only has to cover 5 percent instead of the 5 percent funding cut due to sequestration. "We did not want to overspend as [that] will result in adverse HUD sanctions against our PHA," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMHC also strengthened enforcement efforts, terminating program participants engaged in repeated or serious violations and recovering funds improperly disbursed, he added.

Rosario emphasized that the agency is in "excellent financial standing" given its fiscal conservatism and good business practices, and has set aside administrative reserves to cushion the impact of the federal budget cuts.

He said NMHC has been in constant communication with its HUD field office representative, Darlene Kaholokula, who has advised the local housing agency to wait for the next approved federal budget before issuing any more vouchers.

"HUD has definitely been of great help to us," added Rosario.

can get an increased budget from the Legislature.

Sablan and Muña separately said that in the meantime, any funding for the K9 program to hire dog handlers may have to come from the Executive Branch through reprogramming, among other things.

The lawmaker acknowledges the new Inos administration's hiring freeze, but he said the K9 program has not been without dog handlers since last year.

Sablan said that, as far as he knows, Customs itself is down to less than 30 personnel, including the director.

Muna said when he first became Customs director, there were 83 Customs personnel.

Sources said they feel Customs has been "neglected" for months and years. They said customs inspectors and officers are supposed to be eligible for overtime pay but are instead forced to accept "offsetting" of work hours if they have to inspect cargo during off-hours.

The up to 16-hour cut every payday during the Fitial administration did not exempt customs inspectors and officers.

The Division of Customs assesses excise taxes on incoming goods, conducts inspections of containers and packages at the seaport, airport, and post office, and runs the K9 facility or the drug-detector dog training facility. This division is under the Department of Finance.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Common-

wealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

No refunds for credit union members until after audit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union who have been waiting for refunds will have to wait a little longer as the audit on the agency has yet to be completed.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan disclosed that Deloitte & Touche's audit on the credit union is not complete but the company may have information next week as to when it may conclude the process.

"The CGECU is currently being audited by Deloitte pursuant to a contract awarded them by the Office of the Public Auditor. The auditors have been combing through pertinent documents of the credit union over the past couple of weeks. We anticipate that sometime this week or next week, the auditors

will be able to give the credit union a projected timeframe for the completion of the audit," said Demapan.

Many union members filed requests to withdraw their monies last year. The credit union was last audited in fiscal year 2008.

Demapan said that once this long awaited audit is completed, the union will then address the members' requests.

The union is a member-owned, nonprofit cooperative formed to allow members to pool their savings, lend them to one another, and own the organization where they save, borrow, and obtain related financial services.

It was formed in February 1995 and is administered by a five-member board.

Demapan said the board is functioning because it has the required quorum.

FAISAO

From Page 1

representative Diego Benavente, co-founder of the so-called Independent Republicans, will be heading a government agency. Benavente declined to comment on the matter at this time. Another former Cabinet secretary may also return to government.

So far, the governor and lieutenant governor have decided on only a few courtesy resignations. They are keeping Department of Public Safety Commis-

sioner James Deleon Guerrero, Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas, and Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Deleon Guerrero.

Inos also tapped former CNMI resident representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio to be his senior policy adviser, replacing Dr. John Joyner. He also nominated former senator Maria Frica T. Pangelinan to serve as a member of the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees representing Saipan. Pangelinan's appointment requires Senate advice and consent.

OPA

From Page 1

for Fitial on charges of conspiracy to commit theft of services, conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice, obstruction of justice, and misconduct in public office, among others

Santos filed the affidavit in support of penal summons against Fitial on Thursday, March 7, in Superior Court.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman issued that same day the penal summons that ordered the former governor to appear in court at 9am on the first Monday after receiving the service of summons to answer the allegations.

"If you do not appear, an application may be made for the issuance of a warrant for your arrest," Wiseman stated in the summons.

The judge told Fitial he is entitled to a lawyer.

"If you are unable to afford a lawyer, you may be entitled to the services of an appointed lawyer at no expense to you. To apply for these services, please contact the Office of Probation at 236-9865/70," Wiseman said.

Fitial is reportedly now in the Philippines.

OPA chief investigator Santos said that Fitial should be considered a flight risk.

He cited significant evidence of a coordinated effort to shield Buckingham from being served a penal summons and assisting him in his flight from the CNMI.

Santos said their investigation reveals that Fitial was fully aware of the existence of the penal summons for Buckingham. He cited text messages sent by Buckingham to Fitial's cell phone.

Santos said the former governor also interfered and obstructed justice by assisting Buckingham to evade and avoid receipt of the summons. He did this, Santos said, by providing his personal driver/bodyguard Jermaine W. Nekaifes and Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro to help Buckingham avoid the service of the summons.

He said that DPS detective Elias Q. Saralu and police officer Peter Camacho have stated that Fitial had questioned the police's presence at Aquarius Hotel and for assisting OPA.

At that time, Buckingham was checked in at the Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel.

Santos said that Fitial gave instructions to Saralu and Camacho not to investigate detective Alexander Sakisat.

Camacho was the one who pulled over Sakisat and asked what he was doing in Buckingham's car and with his luggage.

Santos said Fitial was in regular communication with Ogumoro as Buckingham was being escorted to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

An FBI special agent eventually managed to serve Buckingham with the penal summons shortly before the Delta Air Lines flight to Japan took off in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012. Buckingham, who is reportedly in the U.S. mainland, has been declared a fugitive from justice.

On Wednesday last week, OPA investigators and police officers arrested Nekaifes, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan Kosam, and CPA police Capt. Juan Rebueng for their alleged participation in the effort to shield Buckingham from being served the summons. The three were released after posting \$500 bail each.

K9

From Page 1

port, easier and less time consuming.

Customs Director Jesus Muña said yesterday that the repair for the two x-ray vans could cost some \$30,000—money that is hard to come by these days.

Muna said the last certified dog handler left the Customs K9 program before the end of June 2012. Some of them went looking for higher-paying jobs either in the CNMI or the U.S. mainland.

He said Customs wants to hire replacements for these certified dog handlers but the lack of funding, among other things, has been making that impossible.

Muna said that they currently have four dogs: three drug-detector dogs and one explosives-detector dog. He said they are properly taken care of and fed, but cannot be used for cargo inspections due to the lack of certified handlers.

"We have not suspended or shut down the K9 program. The program is still there because we still have the dogs. We just don't have certified dog handlers," Muna told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office at the seaport area yesterday.

Customs personnel said the use of drug- and bomb-sniffing dogs is just one of their "tools," so the absence of

this tool does not necessarily mean detection of drugs and explosives among incoming cargo and passengers has ceased since manual inspections are still being done.

The K9 program used to train dog handlers not only in the CNMI but also from Palau and American Samoa.

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan), who worked for the Division of Customs for some 14 years before becoming a lawmaker, said in a separate interview yesterday that it is unfortunate that the K9 program has been "non-operational" since last year.

"One can't lose nine dog handlers and not do anything about it. This is a concern that we really need to take a look at," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the K9 program has been receiving federal grants.

Sablan, a former customs warrant officer, said he is seeking support from his colleagues in the House of Representatives to appropriate more funding to the Division of Customs so that it can once again hire dog handlers to make its K9 program operational.

The lawmaker said he understands the government is in tight financial situation but that priorities also have to be set.

The Inos administration has yet to submit to the Legislature its proposed fiscal year 2014 budget. Fiscal year 2014 does not start until Oct. 1 so Customs may have to wait for at least seven more months to see whether it

Hotels' occupancy rate at 94 pct. in February

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 94.45-percent occupancy rate among its 12 member hotels for February 2013, an

8-percent increase from February 2012.

A total of 63,520 of 67,256 available room nights were sold in February 2013, compared to

60,552 of 69,658 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were \$117.94 during the month, compared to \$105.54 last February.

"Ninety-four percent occupancy is the highest rate HANMI has seen since 1997. We continue to see strong recovery in the industry driven by increased flights, especially from China," said HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa. "To

capitalize on this growth, we must continue as service providers and a community to provide a high level of service and hospitality that will give visitors a positive experience while [on] our islands."

So far this calendar year, ho-

tel occupancy is at an average 92.75 percent, 7 percent higher than last year.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (**HANMI**)

'CW funds not guaranteed resource for NMTI'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Inos administration is noncommittal about funding the operation of the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, saying the government has to first provide for public schools before it can allocate funds for the private institution.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday when asked about the institute's request to be allocated a portion of the contract workers fees—or CW fees—that the CNMI government gets each year from the federal government.

Former governor Benigno R. Fitial junked the bill that sought to give the institute

\$500,000 from the estimated \$1.5 million in CW fees remitted to the government. This amount is equal to what the Public School System and Northern Marianas College each got.

According to Demapan, the funding request for the institute is now being reviewed but he pointed out that the total CW amount is just an estimate.

"What's important to note is that the subject appropriation of \$500,000 to NMTI was based only on estimates or projections that included \$500,000 for PSS and \$500,000 for NMC. Altogether, that would have obligated \$1.5 million in CW funds that are only mere estimates and not guaranteed resources, more so at a time when we are seeing

reduced numbers in CW renewals," he said.

Therefore, Demapan said, "before the administration can commit such funds to private institutions like NMTI, it must ensure that constitutionally mandated public educational institutions like PSS and NMC are adequately supported."

Saipan Tribune learned that due to funding shortfalls for teachers' and instructors' salaries, classes at the institute have been temporarily suspended.

NMTI director Vic Cepeda vowed, however, to continue running the school despite its present financial difficulties.

"NMTI is not closing down," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the campus where its offices are also located remains open

and registration is ongoing.

In fact, he said, about 180 students have already registered for various courses and many are on the wait-list.

Cepeda also disclosed plans to explore federal grants through the support of some groups and organizations from the U.S. mainland.

According to Cepeda, as soon as funding is identified,

classes will immediately start in four basic courses: culinary, hotel and restaurant, auto mechanic, and construction. Teachers for these courses, he said, are on standby and ready to begin sessions.

He remains hopeful that the Inos administration and Legislature will positively respond to their request for funds in order to continue the mission of

the institute.

The institute was aided in the past by funding assistance from local and federal sources. Cepeda hopes that financial support such as educational tax credit, grants, and donations will continue to be directed to the institute.

Since its inception in 2008, the institute has produced more than 400 graduates.

BOP questions parole eligibility of convicted drug trafficker

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David Tanaka Diaz is back in jail after the Board of Parole realized that there are legal questions about his eligibility for parole.

Diaz is a musician sentenced to 30 years in prison on a drug trafficking offense, but was released in 2010 after serving only eight years due to then governor Benigno R. Fitial's commutation of his sentence.

Saipan Tribune learned that during Friday's Board of Parole rescission hearing, parole hearing examiner Rose Ada Hocog found probable cause to hold Diaz in the Department of Corrections until a full board hearing.

Attorney Edward Arriola Sr. served as counsel for Diaz at the hearing, which was attended by at least one board member. BOP has eight members.

BOP counsel assistant attorney general Lynnette Van Wyngarden said Monday that a revocation hearing occurs when the board believes that a parolee

may have violated some terms of their parole.

A rescission hearing, on the other hand, has to do with the board's ability to put that person on parole status, Wyngarden added.

"So the question here is whether Mr. Diaz is even eligible to be on parole status," the lawyer said.

Wyngarden disclosed that the board decided to have the rescission hearing after discovering the legal issues.

"They discovered that there may have been an error and the board is looking it into right now," she said.

Wyngarden said that Hocog found probable cause to hold Diaz in jail until his full hearing can be held, possibly by next month.

The BOP counsel said that Diaz was originally detained because there was a question whether he revoked his parole.

"Now the board realized that there maybe question as to whether he is even eligible for parole," she added.

In August 2001, local and federal law enforcers arrested Diaz for drug trafficking and seized from him 212.59 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" and 77.28 grams of marijuana.

Authorities at the time considered it to be the biggest drug seizure in the Commonwealth in recent years.

In August 2012, then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama sentenced Diaz to 25 years in jail to be served without parole.

In February 2010, Fitial commuted the 25-year sentence, citing Diaz's "outstanding record" in prison—including painting a school bus stop and helping at the 2008 Liberation Day—as well as the support of the Department of Corrections and community members.

Fitial commuted Diaz's sentence of 25 years imprisonment without parole to 15 years, reducing the sentence by 10 years.

With the commutation, BOP issued Diaz his certificate of parole on March 12, 2010.

Burglary suspect arrested for alleged 'ice' possession

A police officer investigating a burglary and theft case instead allegedly found 1.20 gross grams of methamphetamine or "ice" on one of the suspects Monday afternoon.

Xuguang Li, 36, was detained for illegal possession of a controlled substance and taken to Superior Court for his initial court appearance yesterday afternoon.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a \$5,000 cash bail for Li's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on March 19 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that he went to the Triple J Recycling Center in As Perdido,

Saipan on Monday afternoon to follow up on a burglary and theft case.

Camacho said stolen in that case were rolls of copper tubings, among other items.

Camacho said that a review of the shop's surveillance camera showed three persons trying to sell several rolls of copper tubings but were denied because they didn't have any identification cards.

Camacho said he left the shop and was heading south on Martinez Road in Koblerville when he saw Li, one of the three persons in the surveillance footage, walking on the shoulder of the southbound lane.

Camacho said he stopped his

unmarked police vehicle, got down, talked to Li, and asked for his identification card.

The detective said he saw Li take out a black plastic bag from his left front pocket and throw it behind him.

Camacho asked for backup and two detectives arrived.

Camacho said he checked the plastic bag and found in it a coffee stick pack with a rolled up white tissue paper that contained a baggie.

He said the baggie contained 1.20 gross grams of crystalline substance that turned out presumptive positive for "ice" during his field test.

Li was then arrested. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)



Left to right: Henri Ofana, Tim Ofana, Emely Ofana, Alice Ofana Tamayo and Mervin Tamayo of Guam Bakery

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'Classical arts, including ballet, need community's support to survive'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ballet and other classical art forms will not survive without the support of the business sector and the entire community, according to Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden.

Oden, president of Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, said he started learning more about ballet when he met his wife, academy instructor Anna Glushko.

He noted that ballet is one of the three major art forms that have survived the classical world into the modern world. It is an art form that began centuries ago and was performed mainly for royals or monarchs.

"It's always required for classical arts—including ballet—from the time of Beethoven and other great artists of the world, to be supported by the kingdoms of Europe. It's always required financial support. It's not the type of thing that survives without the help of rich people, particularly the business community," said Oden at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday.

He said Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, the only ballet school in the CNMI, works hard to bring world-class ballet performances to the islands

through the annual International Ballet of the Stars.

"This project has survived and is the finest ballet performance in the United States and the Pacific," said Oden.

This year's show is scheduled on March 16 and 17, 7pm to

9pm, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

The weekend show will feature husband-and-wife ballet dancers Alexey Nasadovich and Margarita Rudina from Ekaterinburg, Russia. The two have performed on island several

times in the past and are expected to bring their daughter during this year's visit.

Also expected to grace the show are ballerinas from Osaka in Japan and, for the first time, from Vladivostok in Russia, which is Glushko's native land.

They will be joined on stage by Glushko's young students.

"We're fortunate that because of Anna's contacts in the ballet community in Russia, Japan, Korea, and the U.S., we're able to put on a world-class ballet show," said Oden.

The academy president revealed that a show of this caliber costs about \$70,000 and a similar show in the U.S. mainland will have a ticket price worth about \$180 per person.

"If we charge that kind of amount, people won't come," said Oden.

Both Oden and Glushko

thanked the local businesses that have provided them financial or in-kind support, making it possible for the academy to host the International Ballet of the Stars yearly at affordable rates.

Tickets to the show cost \$15 per adult and \$10 for children 3 to 12 years old. Glushko encouraged those interested to watch the show to buy their tickets in advance as the venue has a policy that doesn't allow show organizers to sell tickets at the site.

For more information, call 483-6271 or email glushko-academy@yahoo.com.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts instructor Anna Glushko, left, addresses members of the Rotary Club of Saipan during Tuesday's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. At right is academy president, Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden.

Municipal council backs Kaipat nomination

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Having a Northern Islands representative in the municipal council would support redevelopment efforts in the area, said council vice chair Antonia M. Tudela.

Tudela and council chair Ramon B. Camacho adopted in February a resolution to endorse

the nomination of Diego Litulumar Kaipat to the council.

Kaipat, a retired nurse nominated by Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan, still needs to be confirmed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation.

Tudela emphasized that it is only fair to have a Northern Islands resident to represent the "northern frontier" in the council.

"The development of the Northern Islands will be good for the whole CNMI," she said.

While Tudela does not know Kaipat personally, she touted Kaipat's "good reputation" among those who do know him.

This early, Tudela said, Kaipat has begun discussions with him and Camacho regarding business opportunities in the Northern Islands.

She said Kaipat is looking at getting a Korean investor to capitalize in sugarcane planting in the Northern Islands to improve the local economy.

"Right now, we're hurting because of the economy and Mr. Kaipat is the kind of person that we want in the council—someone who can work with us for the benefit of Saipan, the Northern Islands, and the entire Commonwealth," added Tudela.

'Adopt-a-Place program instills ownership at grassroots level'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Adopt-a-Place program of the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council supports the government-sponsored tourism initiative in the CNMI, according to council chair Ramon B. Camacho.

Camacho said that beautifying the islands generally helps destination enhancement efforts in the Commonwealth, which profoundly relies on tourism industry to generate economic activities.

He noted that the program was put in place even before the government started an initiative to strengthen the tourism business in the Northern Marianas.

The main goal of Adopt-a-Place is to bring together the business sector and other members of the community in maintaining designated places, instilling a sense of ownership and care among participants.

Through the program, eyesores such as overgrown veg-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho gestures as he talks about the Adopt-a-Place program. The council now has a map, seen in photo, which would indicate the areas that have already been adopted as opposed to those that are not.

etation are removed, which also results in a decline in the number of unacceptable or criminal activities.

The underlying principle of Adopt-a-Place, Camacho said, is community-based participation as the CNMI collectively works on nurturing its No. 1 industry.

Program involvement at the grassroots level breaks the culture of relying on the government.

According to Camacho, more and more people in the community are seeing the value of Adopt-a-Place, be it business establishments, civic groups, or private individuals. Just last Saturday, the Sabalu Farmers Market Association extended the area that it has adopted, now reaching to the beach side of the market site in Susupe.

He said the council has come up with a map of the entire island, which would mark the areas that have already been adopted and distinguish them from those that still need to be adopted.

"It really makes sense to bring the community together, regardless of ethnicity or other affiliation, and work cooperatively in maintaining the island of Saipan, which is home to all of us," added Camacho.

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1st General Membership Meeting FY 2013
March 14, 2013 at 12:00pm-4:00pm
Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
 - Announcement: CNMI Office of the Public Auditor
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Review and adoption of December 06, 2012 Minutes**
- V. Reports**
 - OVR Director
 - SILC Chairman
 - CIL Director
- VI. Old Business**
 - Review membership composition
 - Review/Plan for the 2014-2016 SPIL (State Plan for Independent Living)
 - Public Forum
- VII. New Business**
 - 2013 National Council on Independent Living Conference
 - 2014 SILC Congress Highlight
- VIII. Consumer Forum**
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous**
- X. Adjournment**

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-13-016

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS
(Phase No. 3)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 14, 2013** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-016, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 9, 2013** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page—<http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **March 19, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

<p>NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND Plaintiff,</p>	}	<p>CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0120</p>
vs.	}	<p>SUMMONS</p>
<p>VICENTE K. BASA aka VINCENT K. BASA, Defendant.</p>	}	

TO: VICENTE K. BASA aka VINCENT K. BASA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 15th day of January, 2013

/s/ Clerk of Court 1st Publication

Benavente, Hayes nominees for Businesswoman of the Year

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—Two female executives on Saipan join seven other nominees for the 2013 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award of the First Hawaiian Bank and *Guam Business Magazine*.

Vicky Benavente, executive assistant, Pacific Islands Club Saipan; and Annie G. Hayes, assistant general manager, Herman's Modern Bakery, will be competing with seven other nominees from Guam for the annual award that

honors businesswomen in the Marianas region.

The other nominees are Loisa Cabuhat, realtor, Coral Sea Realty; Dr. Annette David, director, Consulting Services, Health Partners LLC; Lisa Lenckowski, marketing manager, Outrigger Guam Resort; Geraldine Leon Guerrero, general manager, Adztech; Beatrice P. "Tricee" Limtiaco, president, Perez Bros. Inc.; Marie Calvo Monge, chief operating officer of the stations of KUAM; and Cecilia T. Y.

"Nancy" Robato, principal broker, Pacific Pearl Properties.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on April 27, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the *Guam Business Magazine* May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the Uni-

versity of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the gala on April 27 may be purchased from Nikki Manalo who can be reached at (671) 483-3637 or nikkifhb@yahoo.com.

The 2012 Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award recipient was Mary P. Rhodes (2012), president of the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association

and president of MARQ Consulting Services.

Past recipients include Joyce Quinata Crisostomo (2011), Executive Director of Cars Plus and President of Payless Car Rental; Anna Wang Kao (2010), founder and president of Genghis Khan Furniture Co.; Lorraine S. Okada (2009), executive manager of Carlsmith Ball LLP, and president and owner of Managing

Consulting Services; Julienne Rose Perez Duenas (2008), physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Inc.; Christine Won Pat Baletto (2007), general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors; and Katherine Calvo Sgro (2006), executive vice President and chairwoman of the board of Pay-Less Markets Inc. **(PR)**

Birmingham-Babauta joins nat'l honor society

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A student from the Commonwealth is making a mark abroad after being invited to join the prestigious National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The good news was relayed to Samantha A. Birmingham-Babauta last weekend by Steve Loflin, founder and CEO of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Birmingham-Babauta is taking up a bachelor's degree Kinesiology at California State University, Northridge.

Birmingham-Babauta is a Gates Millennium Scholar in the CNMI. She had spoken to many schools and groups on island encouraging students to take advantage of scholarship opportunities.

Birmingham-Babauta was among the 23,000 applicants for a Gates Millennium Scholarships in 2011 and was the only one chosen in the CNMI that year. She finished her freshman year at the University of Guam

and later transferred to California State University at Northridge.

The National Society of Collegiate Scholars is an honor society that invites and elevates high-achieving first- and second-year college students while recognizing and rewarding its members throughout their lifetime.

The society has chapters at over 300 colleges and universities across the country, including Princeton University, The University of Texas at Austin, the University of California, Los Angeles, Cornell University, and the University of Virginia.

Aside from the prestige of membership, Birmingham-Babauta will also have the opportunity to access nearly half a million dollars in scholarships each year, including \$30,000 in Merit Awards granted to outstanding new NSCS members. She will also be provided opportunities from organizations that value NSCS membership, including Accenture, Teach For America, and many others. She can also access discounts from major retailers.



Birmingham-Babauta



NEW JAPAN CONSUL

Outgoing Japan Consul Tsutomu Higuchi, second left, and incoming Japan Consul Koji Hino, third left, visited Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider to officially convey the change in consular assignments for the Japan Consulate Office here on Saipan. House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero also joined the Governor and Lt. Governor. Gov. Inos thanked Consul Higuchi for his friendship and his services during his 5-year assignment on Saipan and welcomed Consul Hino to the Commonwealth on his first consular assignment to any American territory.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Trial of ex-Corrections officer in 'ice' case begins

The jury trial of Corrections officer Mariano Q. Falig Jr., who is facing "ice" charges, began Monday in federal court with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona selecting the jury.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross K. Naughton is prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Ramon Quichocho is counsel for Falig.

Quichocho filed Monday a motion to dismiss the indictment.

As an alternative, he sought a continuance of the trial.

Quichocho argued that the recent disclosure of materials by the prosecution makes it clear that his client's right to effective assistance by counsel will be greatly impaired if the trial were to proceed yesterday.

Quichocho said the court should, in the alternative, grant a continuance to allow the defense to subpoena key

witnesses, at the U.S. government's expense.

Falig was among nine persons arrested in August 2012 by combined federal and local enforcers during operations against "ice" distribution.

The indictment charged Falig and Vicente Aldan Sablan with conspiracy to distribute "ice" and distribution of "ice."

In addition, Falig was

charged with using, carrying, or possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime.

During the operation, federal agents allegedly obtained 1.22 grams of "ice" from a confidential source, who got the "ice" from Sablan.

Sablan signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

NOTICE

To: Remigio N. Nelmida

Your employment contract with **Misamis Construction** has been cancelled. You have been terminated for cause. Please contact the office to receive your Termination notice and to make arrangements for your repatriation airfare.

Management

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-084**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PLANTING MATERIALS FOR THE TALAKHAYA PROJECT IN ROTA FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP13-DPL-085**

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 27, 2013 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO PEDRO I. ITIBUS, ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS AT pete@dpl.gov.mp OR TO MS. ROSALINDA J. AYUYU AT rayuyu@dpl.gov.mp OR BY FAX TO (670) 234-3755 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, ON MARCH 19, 2013.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC LANDS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-091**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 02, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DEPLOYMENT OF FIVE (5) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FAD) SYSTEM IN CNMI WATERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Major in English, Math and/or Science**

Duties: Prepare syllabus and guides that meet the individual needs, interests and abilities of students according to approved curriculum; utilize various instructional methods and materials that will provide for creative teaching on the child's spiritual, mental physical, social, emotional being; create short-range and long range lesson plans, manage classroom behavior of students; oversee extra-curricular activities, field trips, clubs.

Requirements: Holder of Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Education or related field; at least two years' teaching experience preferably in a Christian school; ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) certified preferred; must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school; must adhere to all school policies and procedure; flexibility to accommodate work hours if and when required.

Salary: \$10.00 per hour
Workplace: Saipan, CNMI

3 Elementary School Teachers

Duties: Teaching all subjects in the elementary level; prepare syllabus and guides that meet the individual needs, interests and abilities of students according to approved curriculum; utilize various instructional methods and materials that will provide for creative teaching on the child's spiritual, mental physical, social, emotional being; create short-range and long range lesson plans, manage classroom behavior of students; oversee extra-curricular activities, field trips, clubs.

Requirements: Holder of Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Education or related field; at least two years' teaching experience preferably in a Christian school; ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) certified preferred; must be willing to submit to the doctrinal beliefs of the school; must adhere to all school policies and procedure; flexibility to accommodate work hours if and when required.

Salary: \$10.00 per hour
Workplace: Saipan, CNMI

Business Administrator

Duties: Direct and administer the non-educational operation of the schools that include, finance, safety, security and general services; Develop, improve and issue timely financial reports; budget forecasting and implementation of budget controls; formulate and implement financial policies and internal control.

Requirements: Holder of Bachelor's degree or equivalent in Business Administration, major in Accounting with 5-7 years' work experience preferably in a non-profit organization; knowledge of: management and supervision practices, accounting, budgetary theory principles and practices, state and federal laws and regulations; skills in applying accounting and financial management principles; ability to communicate effectively.

Salary: \$15.85 per hour
Workplace: Saipan, CNMI

Download application form at www.gca-nmi.com and send completed application to Grace Christian Academy, Magas Lp., Navy Hill, P. O. Box 500643, Saipan, MP 96950 on or before April 15, 2013.

Naval Base Guam kicks off Chamorro Month

By SHAINA MARIE SANTOS
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—Service members, island residents, and base patrons gathered at U.S. Naval Base Guam to kick off Chamorro Month with a cultural celebration in front of the Navy Exchange Guam on March 8.

The event, themed “Know the Language of Our Elders and Use it Every Day,” brought together local and military communities to celebrate the Chamorro heritage.

“I think I represent most if not all military folks and families that get the honor and privilege to be stationed [in] Guam,” said Capt. Mike Ward, NBG commanding officer. “Not just to enjoy a beautiful March day like today but also to appreciate and experience the culture that is the Chamorro culture. We would not get exposed to this anywhere else and it’s a unique culture, a rich tradition. Things like the huts, the food, the language, the mighty proa, the latte stone—those are things we learn about as temporary residents here. It makes us better sailors, better families, and better people.”

Ward expressed his gratitude to the base and local organizations including the Fleet and Family Support Center, Agat and Santa Rita mayors’ offices, Guam Visitors Bureau, and Department of Chamorro Affairs for their support during the festivities.

“Thank you for coming out and bringing the Chamorro culture to life here on the installation,” he said. “There is a Chamorro word for cooperation and working together, Inafa’maolek (*in-nah-*



Pa’a Taotao Tano’, a Chamorro cultural group, treats the audience to a *bendision* (ben-di-SHON), or blessing during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 8. The celebration highlighted and introduced base patrons to the local island culture.



Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) commanding officer, center, shares a laugh with Agat Vice Mayor Agustin Quintanilla and Fleet and Family Support Center Family Advocacy Educator Erlinda Monte-Calvo during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange on NBG March 8. The Santa Rita and Agat Mayors’ Offices in collaboration with NBG and several other government agencies worked together to bring the local island culture alive for base patrons.



Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) commanding officer, welcomes patrons to a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange on NBG March 8. The celebration kicked off with a blessing by Pa’a Taotao Tano’, a Chamorro cultural group, followed by a tour of a Chamorro hut built in collaboration with the Agat and Santa Rita mayors’ offices and several other local government agencies.

fah-MAO-lik). It’s emblematic of an event like this, but it’s also emblematic of our relationship with the community here. We are a part of this community, and we want to take our time in our busy schedules where we’re meeting missions, moving ships, and moving sailors on and off this base to honor and recognize the culture that surrounds us.”

Highlights of the event included a blessing by Chamorro cultural group Pa’a Taotao Tano (*pah-AH-tahow-tahaow-tah-NOO*) and presentation of a Chamorro hut filled with local

produce, plants and artifacts.

The hut, constructed of natural materials, was put together in a matter of days by local organizations including the Santa Rita and Agat Mayors’ Offices.

Agat Vice Mayor Agustin Quintanilla said building the hut is a tradition of the village in collaboration with NBG in honor of Chamorro Month.

“It’s very important to show the military that we do still have our hearts and our beliefs,” he said. “It’s a learning experience for them.”



Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) commanding officer, observes a produce display during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange on NBG March 8. The celebration highlighted and introduced base patrons to the local island culture.



Fleet and Family Support Center Family Advocacy Educator Erlinda Montecalvo offers educational handouts to a family during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange on U.S. Naval Base Guam March 8. The celebration highlighted and introduced base patrons to the local island culture.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 12, 2004

PSS needs \$1.1M to pay off vendors

The Public School System is asking the Babauta administration for immediate funding relief totaling \$1.1 million to pay off its vendors. Board of Education chairman Roman C. Benavente said the PSS has yet to settle \$300,000 for fiscal year 2003 and \$250,000 for the first four months of fiscal year 2004. The amounts are owed to vendors that supply goods and services to PSS students and schools. In a recent letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, Benavente and education commissioner Rita H. Inos said that, in addition to the FY 2003 cash debt, “we must add the billings from vendors who provided services or goods based on FY04 obligation documents.”

CUC board OK's \$70M budget for FY05

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board of Directors has approved a \$70.2-million budget for fiscal year 2005—a 4 percent-plus increase compared to FY 2004. The approved budget reflects an \$8.1 million “director’s cut” of “general administration and operations.” CUC executive director Lorraine A. Babauta said in a report that the budget slash means no new purchases of heavy equipment, no new vehicles, and cut-back on construction and maintenance contracts. She said it also means no wage increases outside of the 2004 salary adjustment as recommended by CUC-hired consultant, Fox Lawson.

Mar. 12, 2005

Seman objects to tobacco appropriation bill

Saipan Rep. Benjamin Seman is opposing the passage of a bill that aims to use Tobacco Control Funds for non-health related projects on Rota and Tinian. “We need to comply with the law. You can’t just use that fund for any projects,” said Seman. Besides, he said, the Tobacco Control Funds were generated mainly on Saipan. “The bill is taking away funds from the Tobacco Control Funds to give majority of that funding to Rota and Tinian, when that funding is primarily generated here on Saipan. Rota and Tinian are not contributing to that. There was a report that Rota and Tinian generated only \$11,” said Seman.

House taps \$4.5M labor fees for PSS teacher program

The House of Representatives has passed a bill appropriating \$4.5 million from new labor fees to match a federal grant for the Public School System teachers’ enhancement program. The House approved House Bill 14-278, authored by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios which aims to help the PSS receive a \$12-million annual Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants Program. The grant, which would entitle PSS to a \$4-million grant every year for three years—from Oct. 1, 2005 to Sept. 3, 2008—requires a 50-percent matching funds. The PSS, in a letter to the Legislature, said it would be eligible to receive a \$200,000 waiver in matching funds for each year, and that PSS is also prepared to provide \$300,000 per year from its own budget. The remaining annual match of \$1.5 million would come from the Legislature or the local government.

Mar. 12, 2006

‘Airport car rentals’ fees exceed revenue

Following the pullout of Japan Airlines in October 2005, the revenue of car rental companies at the Saipan airport plunged so low that their monthly rental fees exceed their monthly earnings, information from the Commonwealth Ports Authority showed. As a result, the companies have petitioned the CPA to adjust their monthly payment terms in view of reduced revenues. In a Feb. 16, 2006, letter to six airport car rental companies, CPA executive director Lee Cabrera affirmed that, based on its analysis, “car rental agencies [in recent months] were paying monthly rental payments that exceeded their monthly revenues.”

PTI: We’ll aggressively defend our market share

Aware of heightened advertising activities by rival phone companies, Pacific Telecom Inc. owner Jose Ricardo Delgado said his company is not sitting down but will “aggressively defend our market share.” “We’re going to defend our market across all segment, whether it’s the price, packages... We’ll do a proactive, aggressive marketing approach so as not to be outmarketed. We’ll keep our market share and ride out the cycle,” said Delgado in an interview on Saipan this week. He said the company is set to do “many more things,” which he said indicates that “we are here for the long term.” “We’re not just dressing up to sell it. We want to make sure that the public knows that we’ll keep our business. We will compete aggressively,” he said.

Island Snapshots



PUBLIC DEFENDER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, right, join newly sworn in Public Defender Douglas Hartig and his family and friends for a group photo on Monday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Newly sworn-in Public Defender Douglas Hartig, left, his wife Heather and their children Shea and Conall have their photo taken with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, and the governor's senior policy adviser Pete A. Tenorio, right.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



NEW LAWS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, lawmakers, and other tourism stakeholders applause shortly after the governor signed into law on Monday a bill increasing the hotel occupancy tax by 5 percent effective April 1 to help fund the marketing and promotion of the CNMI as a tourist destination.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



AMBASSADOR'S MEETING

Officials of the U.S. Pinoyos for Good Government meet with Ambassador Reynaldo A. Catapang, Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs, third from left, on how the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs can assist Filipinos in the CNMI by providing legal assistance to Filipinos, especially those with immigration problems and unpaid wages, through the Migrant Workers Act of 1995. There is a Php100 million fund for this purpose. Catapang was very positive on this request and USP4GG will be following up on this. Others in photo are, from left, Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG Marianas chapter chair; attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, USP4GG national chairperson; attorney Ted Laguatan, USP4GG legal counsel/spokesperson; and Josie Laguatan, Laguatan's wife.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy first birthday to our one and only munchkin, Aleina Faith Aguon, who is celebrating her special day today, March 13, 2013. You mean the world to us and may the Lord be with you throughout the years as you grow! With love from Mommy, Daddy, and the family!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 29th birthday to Clarice Deleon Guerrero Arriola, who is celebrating her birthday today, March 13! May the Holy Spirit guide you to all that your heart desires! Greetings coming out from your loving husband Ross, your baby boy Ross Anthony, and especially your Mom, Dad, Jesse, (Masako), Baby Jordan, Frances, and the entire families and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 6th birthday to our dearest daughter, Kaydence Sasaki! We knew that God truly loves us a lot when He gifted us with you. You are the most beautiful gift anyone has ever been gifted with. We love you a lot. On your birthday, we wish that God will bless you abundantly and fill your heart with more love. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Kobe, Ping, and JunJun.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A big birthday shoutout goes out to our granddaughter, Kimani Jaeri C. Santos! Happy third birthday, Princess Mani and may God bless you always. We wish you many more birthdays to come and we love you very much. Greetings come from Grandma Zenaida and Grandpa Stanley Santos and also from your nina and nino in Guam and your aunts and uncles.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Wishing you a day that is special in every way. Happy 6th birthday Joseph Paraiso, March 12, 2013. From Ate Joanie, Briana, and Joshua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 51Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The TSA lightens up (a little)

Who among us has not surrendered a tiny blade or three in our haste to catch a flight? Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, knives have been prohibited in airline cabins, along with box cutters, razor blades and all sorts of objects viewed by the Transportation Security Administration as potential weapons.

The TSA says it confiscates roughly 850 pounds of prohibited items each month at a typical large airport. About half that weight is knives.

Beginning April 25, you'll be free to bring aboard that mini Swiss Army knife, along with certain sporting goods that currently aren't allowed. Collapsible knives with blades no longer than 2.36 inches and no wider than half an inch will be welcome, the TSA announced Tuesday, along with ski poles, hockey sticks and golf clubs (but only two).

The immediate response from the flying public was a collective "Huh?"

Officially, the changes are meant to bring U.S. aviation safety rules in line with international standards. They also allow the TSA to focus on finding more dangerous items, like explosives, instead of wasting time relieving passengers of corkscrews.

If the seeming randomness of baseball bats/no, golf clubs/yes only reinforces your suspicion that airport security exists mainly to hassle travelers, we direct you to the TSA blog, blog.tsa.gov, which provides a weekly accounting of the firearms, grenades, meat cleavers, cattle prods, blasting caps, fireworks, switchblades and other frightening items intercepted at checkpoints nationwide.

Last year, your fellow passengers tried to bring aboard 1,543 guns, almost 80 percent of them loaded, in their carry-ons.

The TSA "Week in Review" for March 1 reports 19 firearms—17 of them loaded—and seven stun guns found in carry-on bags. In February, nine rounds of .45-caliber ammunition were found hidden under the handle of a roll-aboard suitcase, and knives were found concealed in an ink pen, a comb, the lining of a carry-on and a shoe.

Wisecrackers would do well to check out another regular blog feature, "What Not to Say at an Airport." Jan. 25, for example: "While preparing to go through the security lane, a passenger at Chicago O'Hare asked: 'Should I remove my gun and bomb, too?'"

No, we don't think everyone who tries to sneak a pocketknife aboard is plotting mayhem; more likely they didn't check it because they're avoiding the \$25-per-bag fee. But nobody wants to fly with a grenade in the overhead bin. Thank God for those scanners.

So go ahead and keep your itty-bitty knife in your pocket. But please, check that other stuff, or leave it home. And be patient the next time you're singled out for a search because something in your carry-on looks funny. We happen to know that a gallon Ziploc full of Matchbox cars will get you pulled over 10 times out of 10. It's nice to know someone's paying attention.

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Dist. by King Features

THE PEOPLE'S TREE HOUSE

Nelson Mandela

For a hardened revolutionary, he certainly sounds like an amiable grandpa. "I am not sick," he said last year, "I am old!" At 95 years old, he was discharged this weekend from a South African hospital. He just came out of an infection and gallstone operation three months ago, so he may very well be journeying into the sunset of his years. His longtime lawyer friend revealed that Mandela now often shows lapses of memory.

Death has been prominently knocking on the halls of global consciousness of late. It was personally grounded for us when we visited 92-year-old Mama at Kuakini Hospital in Honolulu where she is recuperating from hand surgery after a fall, and a broken hip too fragile to go under the scalpel, just being watched to see if it heals on its own. Her mind is still alert but her body is surely showing the wear and tear of many moons of rearing a family of five children.

Death knells took the pediatrician public health administrator, C. Everett Koop, at 96 to heaven to the Great Surgeon General in the sky. So did Ed Koch, affable former New York City mayor ('78-'89), from heart failure.

Jaime Guadalupe Gonzalez Dominguez, 38-year-old Mexican journalist, was gunned down by forces who took exception to his profession. We do not normally surf the Internet, nor were we a follower of his exploits until we ran into his terminus on cyberspace but his demise caught our attention being a namesake, as well as a fellow journey colleague in the task of designing images to get at life's authentic issues.

A fellow *Pinoy* alerted us to chef Ed Quimson, creative interpreter of traditional Filipino and Spanish cuisine, who at 48 failed to recover from an earlier angiogram operation and succumbed to a "congestive heart failure that led to a heart attack." CNMI Pinoy might remember him from his *Tia Mare* fame.

American actress Bonnie Franklin who was our heartthrob when we still had a heart to throb, ended her *One Day at a Time* life journey (the TV version ran '75-'84) at 69 from pancreatic cancer. As Ann Romero, a recently divorced mother of two girls, her sitcom provided us a release valve to an intense period of social engagement in our life.

Of course, we all know of our own Guam-based historian Dirk Ballendorf who put the final period on his historical account at 73. Our own social studies eyes did not miss the passing of the scholar and Indian revolutionary, Shivashankar Rao, at 92. Not a fellow traveler, we do know that he helped found the Communist Party of India.

But it is the fiery and controversial Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez finally ending his battle with cancer that caught the sympathies and curiosities of many around the world, as the oil rich country he leaves behind will have to deal with his legacy of giving preference to the less fortunate in his neighborhood rather than ensuring the accountant's desire for a balanced budget. His socialist practice has been deemed "unsustainable" by economic commenta-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



tors, even the sympathetic ones, in the Western media.

We had a chance to spend an extended period in Venezuela twice, once in '75 and the other in '79. On our first foray, the urban center of Caracas still had the luxury of closing shops at noon until three in the afternoon in observance of the Iberian practice of "siesta." By the time we returned in '79, with the U of Chicago boys prominently guiding the extraction of gas from Lake Maracaibo, neoliberalism and laissez-faire capitalism (translate, dog-eat-dog) was the marketplace ethos from Mexico to Santiago.

It was about this time that soldier Chavez organized his Bolivarian putschist that failed, sending him to rethink strategy in jail for two years. He emerged a populist politician that got him elected to three terms while allying the country to the governments of Fidel and Raul Castro's Cuba, Rafael Correa's Ecuador, and Daniel Ortega's Nicaragua, none of whom were particular favorites of Washington's foggy bottom.

In '79, we saw the blatant disparity between the haves and the have-nots, not just in Venezuela but in *Sud y Centro America*, and the Caribbean, embarrassingly so since the supporters of our community work were definitely and primarily identified with the haves.

As we rely on Velcro to spare us from bending to lace our shoes, gliding with an impish smile into the beginning of our seventh decade, we become familiar with the increasing challenge of living with verve and élan, without guilt or remorse of the days gone by, nor fear and trepidation over the remaining days of our years.

It was in this tone that a colleague (of my age) and I conversed one afternoon at the Pagoda Hotel of Honolulu not too long ago. Discovering cancerous tissues 10 months before, our friend was at the tail end of a chemotherapy regimen before heading back for Saipan to spend the remaining years.

I had since passed on an article (Google if interested) by retired professor of family medicine at USC, Ken Murray, on *Why Doctors Die Differently*, subtitled "Careers in medicine have taught them the limits of treatment and the need to plan for the end." But more important than planning the end is the decision to live life before then, thus giving the rarely used intentional touch on the journey of our lives.

With Mandela, we say, we are not ill, we are graciously dying our death.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obamageddon fails!

President Obama relishes regurgitated rhetoric, hoping his redundancy could gain him support for more spending slammed last week by Republicans. He piles up lies with fear-mongering campaign in nearby towns only to realize that the American public has caught up with his used and redundant antics.

The wheels of his sequester not only came off but failed to deliver the anticipated political mileage. In purposeful ignorance he demonizes and calls his own sequester “dumb.” Outstanding in the inadvertent admission of his own mess! Welcome to Sequesterville!

Well, people have also learned that the king is, indeed, naked! This doesn’t need imperial imprimatur for purposes of understanding the collision of political issues other than the use of common sense. And if Mr. O refuses to lead, is there anything in his game plan that says tired rhetoric could substitute for leadership? Or is it his presidential mandate to ruin Republicans for the 2014 election, ignoring the urgency of a listless economy? Is his failed adolescent shift a veil to hide his lack of clarity of understanding what it takes to reinvent the wheels of economic recovery?

The president refuses to acknowledge that the federal government is “so bloated, so wasteful and so incompetent,” according former House speaker Newt Gingrich in a recent TV panel. He said, “If this were a private firm, the CEO would have been fired. In this case, it would be Obama and the U.S. Congress.” It’s an issue Obama chooses to ignore in the interest of breaking the GOP “fever,” a move that exacted the complete opposite.

National conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer said “the sequester is just one-half of 1 percent of GDP. It amounts to 1.4 cents on the dollar of nondefense spending, 2 cents overall.

“The problem with sequestration, of course, is that the cuts are

Following Rove’s muddy path

President Obama owes Karl Rove a thank-you note.

During last year’s election campaign, Rove and other Republicans showed how federal tax law could be stretched to turn a political committee into a “social welfare” organization. These nonprofit organizations, known as 501(c)(4)s, are defined by the Internal Revenue Code as “primarily engaged in promoting in some way the common good and general welfare.”

This year, with the president’s blessing, former Obama campaign aides have followed in Rove’s muddy path and launched a social welfare organization of their own, called Organizing for Action (with, happily, the same initials as Obama for America).

This new organization has decided to improve humanity by keeping Obama’s grass-roots supporters mobilized, and by raising money for television commercials to criticize Republicans who stand in the president’s way.

There’s nothing wrong with political organizing, of course; encouraging citizens to get involved is a good thing. There’s nothing inherently wrong with political commercials either, as long as the ads are truthful and the source of funds is clear.

But using the “social welfare” clause to run a political campaign is a stretch when Republicans are doing it, and it’s just as tawdry in the hands of Democrats. It’s even more unseemly, somehow, when the White House lends the president’s prestige to such an operation.

“It’s like selling the Lincoln Bedroom, but without the sheets,” charges Bob Edgar, a former Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania who’s now president of Common Cause, the nonpartisan reform group. “It smells.”

Still, it was a stroke of unalloyed chutzpah when Rove denounced the idea, saying he never could have gotten away with it in George W. Bush’s White House. I’d bet his real regret is that he just didn’t think of it back then.

Obama’s lieutenants, stung by the criticism, have scrambled to announce new, self-imposed rules to reduce the appearance that Organizing for Action will give donors special access to the president.

Chairman Jim Messina issued a statement promising that the organization would take no money from corporations or lobbyists, and would identify big donors and how much they give. (Under the law, 501(c)(4)s are allowed to take corporate money and to keep donations anonymous, a dodge Rove has embraced without apology.) And White House Press Secretary Jay Carney insisted that big donors and bundlers wouldn’t be allowed to purchase meetings with the president.

But another board member told me that Obama may still meet with the organization’s leaders when it holds its first big meeting in Washington this week.

“This is a lot of noise over nothing,” the board member said. “It’s ridiculous to think the president can’t meet with his own supporters.”

In a practical sense, at least, that’s true. As Edgar notes, many of Organizing for Action’s donors will be the same people who gave money

across the board and do not allow money to move between accounts. It’s dumb because it doesn’t discriminate.

“Fine. Then change the law. That’s why we have a Congress. Discriminate. Prioritize. That’s why we have budgets. Except that the Democratic Senate hasn’t passed one in four years. And the White House that had 18 months to establish rational priorities among accounts did nothing.

“When the GOP House passed an alternative that cut where the real money is—entitlement spending—President Obama threatened a veto. Meaning, he would have insisted that the sequester go into effect—the very sequester he now tells us will bring on Armageddon.

“At the fiscal cliff, Obama broke—and split—the Republicans on taxes. With the sequester, he intends to break them on spending. Make the cuts as painful as possible, and watch the Republicans come crawling for a “balanced” (i.e., tax-hiking) deal.

“In the past two years, House Republicans stopped cold Obama’s left-liberal agenda. Break them now, and the road is open to resume enactment of the expansive, entitlement-state liberalism that Obama proclaimed in his second inaugural address.

“But he cannot win if ‘nothing bad really happens.’ Indeed, he’d look both foolish and cynical for having cried wolf.

“Obama’s incentive to deliberately make the most painful and socially disruptive cuts possible is enormous. And alarming.”

■ ■ ■

Fitting sequestration

The U.S. has certain obligations under the Covenant Agreement as it relates to funding. This is an issue that our Washington Office must revisit so he familiarizes himself with Uncle Sam’s obligations even under the brewing sequestration slugfest.

In other words, the agreement sets forth how the CNMI is funded

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



to the Obama campaign or its big-dollar “super PAC” during the election. “They’ve already got all the access money can buy,” he said.

In one respect, even without Messina’s new rules, Organizing for Action is better than other 501(c)(4)s: At least we know who’s behind it. Rove’s organization, Crossroads GPS, buys television commercials without saying who paid for them—the political equivalent of an anonymous letter.

Still, Organizing for Action shares one unattractive quality with Rove’s 501(c)(4): hypocrisy. For legal reasons, it claims to be non-partisan, and it says it isn’t attempting to influence elections. But its first advertising buy, criticizing members of Congress who don’t support Obama’s gun-control proposals, was directed only at Republicans, even though there are Democrats who are waffling on gun control, too.

The bigger problem is that Obama’s embrace of the organization is another sign of how remote the goal of campaign reform has become and how thoroughly Obama has abandoned that cause.

When Obama began running for president in 2007, he sounded like a genuine reformer. He said he wanted to limit the role of money in campaigns and create the most transparent presidential administration in history. But in practice, he has walked away from that piece of his agenda, beginning when he refused public financing for his 2008 campaign.

Aides and supporters say he’s had to play by the rules that are in place, including the Supreme Court’s 2010 rulings on corporate contributions, and they have a point. If Obama didn’t take advantage of every opening, they argue, it would amount to “unilateral disarmament.”

But advocates of reform were hoping for more. “He won the election,” Edgar said. “Now he has an opportunity to lead. But what he’s doing with OFA doesn’t look like any kind of reform.”

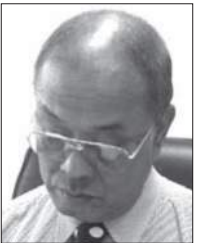
Ever since Richard M. Nixon, presidents have waged a strategy of “permanent campaigning,” using their ability to mobilize supporters to put pressure on Congress and solidify the position of their party. But Obama is taking it a big step further, not only using the bully pulpit of the presidency but adding campaign-style fundraising, advertising and grass-roots organizing as well.

The practices he’s using are all pragmatic, legal and already employed by his opponents. But that doesn’t make them right.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



quite apart from territories that are thrown bones to chew on while the political hostage posturing ensues. This and the application of laws are part and whole of the agreement that members of the U.S. Congress must constantly be reminded of.

Indeed, our interest would often fall by the wayside given that members of Congress hail from the 50 states of the union. Our delegate isn’t allowed to vote on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. His vote counts when it doesn’t and doesn’t when it counts.

Understandably, there’s the process the CNMI must meet under the electoral college system before we could be considered part of the “union” and accorded “equal representation.” It relates to the attainment of statehood, best left parked in our back pockets for it is the purview of indigenous scholars. In other words, when more of our young scholars return, they’d engage in proactive discussion where the future leads in terms of our relationship with the feds.

Excesses from the WH

Taxpayers paid for the Obama family’s recent Hawaiian vacation to the tune of \$20 million. Did you know that flying Air Force One costs taxpayers some \$180,000 per hour? Could Obama pay for the same vacation on his own when he’s “never worked in his life” per a recent book?

Did you know that U.S. taxpayers forked out some \$340 million on 894 government-sponsored conferences, including the Last Vegas bash by the U.S. General Services Administration.

But one that caught my attention was the \$5 million study on goldfish to figure out how they work and whether human beings emulate the same. I think the smarter choice is a study of industrious ants that work the clock on food gathering for the winter months.

If we figure this one out, it could lead to eradicating hunger across the entire global village. It should also help politicians get down to basics, learning vital lessons on integrity and why they must learn to read and write proficiently, which leads to reading and understanding basic documents to avoid humiliating circumstances.

How about an instructive mandate to learn to “tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth” recited daily at dawn and sunset?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Connecting to the past

The upcoming lecture on ancient history this Saturday provides an opportunity for the indigenous people to get connected with their past. If this lecture accounts for pre-contact with outside civilization, it would be of great interest to the Chamorro people and how these people evolved as a food gathering, hunting, and herding society.

The sun, the sea, the land, and the heavens above were nature to these people. For instance, the ancient Charmorro viewed the sun as an essential element for growing food and as a clock to tell time. Life practices revolved around the moon’s cycle, and the Chamorro people did not follow the Western civilization’s 12-month calendar system.

This lecture series would be an opportunity to check what other researchers say about how the Chamorro people lived in ancient time, or we should learn new knowledge about the living capsule of history left undisturbed at the excavation site and the subject of the researchers’ investigation. It is amazing how modern minds could tell the story of the past just by examining the artifacts left behind by our ancestors. Perhaps it is a thought that would eventually stick in the minds of the indigenous people—that our past has meaning and these researchers should be commended for making the case that the past is important for a people that existed on these islands and preserved these lands for the future generations of the indigenous people. To be an indigenous person of these islands, one must connect to his past, and the only place on this earth that you connect a Chamorro to their land are on these islands. No other place.






Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79

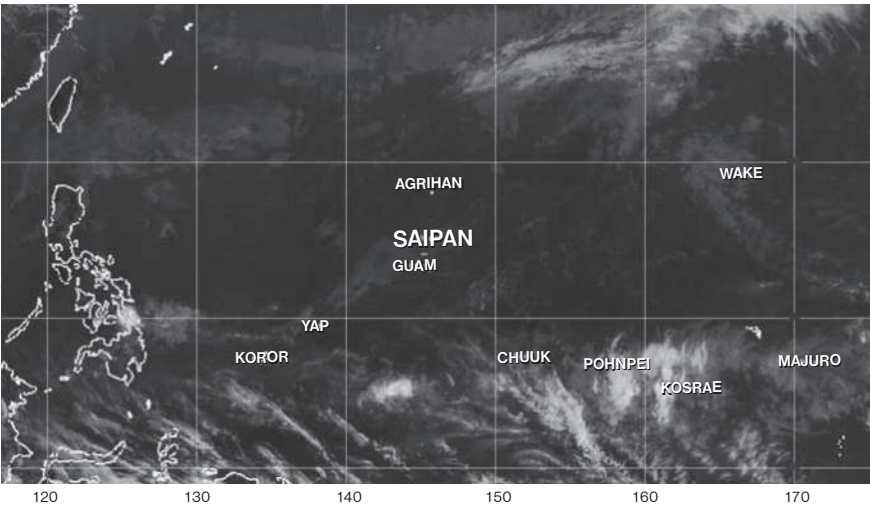
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 63
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 50 ▼ 29
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 42 ▼ 27
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 57
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 54
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 32
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Paris	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 25
Pusan	Windy	▲ 50 ▼ 39
Rome	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 41
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 54
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 39
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:07 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line stretches southwestward across the Mariana Islands from 18N150E to just west of Yap near 10N137E. Some low-level clouds and patchy showers are found along the shear line and especially within a 100 mile wide band in the vicinity of the Marianas. Two other weak shear lines are in the region, one to the northeast of Luzon from 22N136E to west of 22N130E and the second in the vicinity of Wake Island from 14N180 to 13N170E and ending near 20N164E. Both of these contain patchy low-level clouds and isolated showers within a 100 mile wind band farther south. The equatorial trough remains along 2N from 130E to 155E but currently contains very little active weather with it. However, convergence in the trade-wind flow north or the trough extends from 5N140E through 5N150E to just south of Pohnpei near 5N157E and is helping to support some areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms primarily between 140E and 150E which is west of Chuuk east of Pohnpei and into the Marshalls. Trade-wind convergence is aided by a weak surface trough in the vicinity of Kosrae creating a larger area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 3N and 8N from 158E to 171E. Finally, weaker showers exists in the converging trades from 171E to the dateline over the same north/south expanse.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:03 AM	7:40 PM
Thursday	7:45 AM	8:32 PM
Friday	8:28 AM	9:24 PM
Saturday	9:12 AM	10:14 PM
Sunday	9:57 AM	11:04 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 8, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:30am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:25pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 1, 5 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 8:50pm 2:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:40am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:15pm 2, 4, 5, 7 via NRT DL287/173 6:00am 10:35pm 1, 3, 6 via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm Daily via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:45pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 7:55am 1:15am+1 2, 4, 7 via NRT DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:35pm 7:55am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Judge strikes down NYC ban on supersized sodas

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge struck down New York City's pioneering ban on big sugary drinks Monday just hours before it was supposed to take effect, handing a defeat to health-minded Mayor Michael Bloomberg and creating uncertainty for restaurants that had already ordered smaller cups and changed their menus.

State Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling said the 16-ounce limit on sodas and other sweet drinks arbitrarily applies to only some sugary beverages and some places that sell them.

"The loopholes in this rule effectively defeat the stated purpose of this rule," Tingling wrote in a 36-page ruling that examined the scope of power that should be afforded an administrative board for regulations. The ruling was seen as a victory for the beverage industry, restaurants and other business groups that called the rule unfair and wrong-headed.

In addition, the judge said the Bloomberg-appointed Board of Health intruded on the City Council's authority when it imposed the rule, citing in part a case from the 1980s which

questioned whether a state public health council had the authority to regulate smoking in public places.

The city vowed to appeal the decision, issued by New York state's trial-level court.

"We believe the judge is

totally in error in how he interpreted the law, and we are confident we will win on appeal," Bloomberg said, adding that the city would emphasize to higher courts "that people are dying every day. This is not a joke."

For now, though, the ruling means the ax won't fall Tuesday on supersized sodas, sweetened teas and other high-sugar beverages in restaurants, movie theaters, corner delis and sports arenas.

"The court ruling provides a

sigh of relief to New Yorkers and thousands of small businesses in New York City that would have been harmed by this arbitrary and unpopular ban," the American Beverage Association and other opponents said.

America's new love: Water

NEW YORK (AP)—It wasn't too long ago that America had a love affair with soda. Now, an old flame has the country's heart.

As New York City grapples with the legality of a ban on the sale of large cups of soda and other sugary drinks at some businesses, one thing is clear: soda's run as the nation's beverage of choice has fizzled.

In its place? A favorite for much of history: Plain old H₂O.

For more than two decades, soda was the No. 1 drink in the U.S. with per capita consumption peaking in 1998 at 54 gallons a year, according to industry tracker Beverage Digest. Americans drank just 42 gallons a year of water at the time.

But over the years, as soda increasingly came under fire for fueling the nation's rising obesity rates, water quietly rose to knock it off the top spot.

Americans now drink an average of 44 gallons of soda a year, a 17 percent drop from the peak in 1998. Over the same time, the average

amount of water people drink has increased 38 percent to about 58 gallons a year. Bottled water has led that growth, with consumption nearly doubling to 21 gallons a year.

Stephen Ngo, a civil defense attorney, quit drinking soda a year ago when he started running triathlons, and wanted a healthier way to quench his thirst.

Ngo, 34, has a Brita filter for tap water and also keeps his pantry stocked with cases of bottled water.

"It might just be the placebo effect or marketing, but it tastes crisper," said Ngo, who lives in Miami.

The trend reflects Americans' ever-changing tastes; it wasn't too far back in history that tap water was the top drink.

But in the 1980s, carbonated soft drinks overtook tap as the most popular drink, with Coca-Cola and PepsiCo putting their marketing muscle behind their colas with celebrity endorsements from the likes of pop star Michael Jackson and comedian Bill Cosby.



A girl has a doughnut and a beverage, served in a foam cup, at a Dunkin' Donuts in New York Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013.

AP

New BlackBerry coming to the US public on March 22

TORONTO (AP)—BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion will begin selling its new touchscreen smartphone to U.S. consumers with AT&T on March 22. The release will come several weeks after RIM launched the much-delayed devices elsewhere.

AT&T said Monday that the Z10 will be available for \$199.99 with a two-year contract. Sales of the device began

in the U.K. and Canada shortly after RIM unveiled the phone in late January.

Rival U.S. carrier T-Mobile said it expects to deliver the new BlackBerry for some corporate customers as soon as the end of this week, though it did not provide details on the availability for non-business customers.

The redesigned BlackBerry is RIM's attempt at a comeback. The pioneering brand lost its ca-

chet not long after Apple's 2007 release of the iPhone, which reset consumers' expectations for what a smartphone should do.

RIM Chief Executive Thorsten Heins said previously he was disappointed the new BlackBerry would not be released in the U.S. until mid-March, but he said the U.S. and its phone carriers have a rigid testing system.

Heins told The Associated

Press last month that the company would have to regain market share in the U.S. for BlackBerry to be successful. The U.S. has been one market in which RIM has been particularly hurt. The iPhone and phones running Google's Android software now dominate. According to research firm IDC, shipments of BlackBerry phones plummeted from 46 percent of the U.S. market in 2008 to 2 percent in 2012.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Icahn signs confidentiality agreement with Dell

Billionaire investor Carl Icahn, who is fighting Dell Inc. founder Michael Dell's plan to take the struggling company private, has entered a confidentiality agreement that would give him access to the computer maker's financial records. Michael Dell, who is also Dell's

CEO, is planning a \$24.4 billion buyout that would make the Round Rock, Texas, company a privately owned business. But Icahn and other investors say the price of \$13.65 per share is too low. Icahn's company, Icahn Enterprises, has said it holds a substantial stake in the company. (AP)

Chinese e-commerce

giant Alibaba names new CEO

BEIJING (AP)—Alibaba Group, one of the world's biggest e-commerce companies, said Monday its executive vice president will succeed founder Jack Ma as chief executive. Ma, 48, announced in January he was stepping down as CEO to make way for younger leaders. He stayed on as chairman. Jona-

than Lu Zhaoxi, a 13-year veteran of the company, will take over in May as CEO, said the company, based in the eastern city of Hangzhou. "He is passionate about and familiar with the group's various businesses," said Ma in the announcement. "Not only has he contributed to building our culture and organization and developed many talented people, he also possesses

a unique leadership style and charisma."

Dollar mixed after weak Chinese data

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar was mixed against other major currencies following disappointing Chinese economic data over the weekend. The euro rose to \$1.3051 in late trading Monday from \$1.3005 late Fri-

day. The British pound fell to \$1.4922 from \$1.4936. Weak Chinese industrial production and retail sales figures added to concerns that the country's recovery may have slowed. The dollar surged on Friday after the government said that more jobs were created last month in the U.S. than expected, sending the unemployment rate to a four-year low.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

14,447.30
+50.22
0.35%

S&P

1,556.22
+5.04
0.32%

NASDAQ

3,252.87
+8.51
0.26%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9726
British Pound	0.6714
Canadian Dollar	1.027
Chinese Yuan	6.2218
Euro	0.7675

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7556	Philippine Peso	40.6359
Indian Rupee	54.2796	Singapore Dollar	1.2473
Indonesian Rupiah	9697.03	South Korean Won	1094.6
Japanese Yen	96.4334	Swiss Franc	0.949
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1082	Taiwan Dollar	29.68
New Zealand Dollar	1.2118	Thailand Baht	29.737

Nation

Hagel to review Air Force sexual assault case

WASHINGTON (AP)—A case involving an Air Force general who dismissed charges against a lieutenant colonel convicted of sexual assault will be reviewed at the top levels of the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in a letter released Monday. But it's seemed unlikely that the ruling would be changed.

Hagel said that under military law, neither he nor the Air Force secretary has the authority to reverse Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin's decision to overturn the conviction against Lt. Col. James Wilkerson, a former inspector general at Aviano Air Base in Italy.

Hagel's letter is dated March 7 and was sent to Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who released it publicly. The Senate Armed Services Committee is holding a hearing Wednesday on sexual assaults in the military and the Wilkerson case is expected to be a major topic of discussion.

Boxer and Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., wrote to Hagel last week asking him to look into the case. They called Franklin's decision to overturn the jury verdict "a travesty of justice." Franklin is commander of the 3rd Air Force at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., told Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Gen. Mark Welsh, the Air Force chief of staff, in a March 5 letter that Franklin's



U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel steps aboard a C-17 military aircraft as he prepares to depart Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, March 11, 2013 on his way back to Washington. AP

decision "shows ignorance, at best, and malfeasance, at worst." Franklin's decision undermines efforts by the Air Force and the other military branches "to erase a culture that has often turned a blind eye on sexual assault," McCaskill added.

Shaheen and McCaskill are members of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Air Force has been grappling for months with the fallout over a sex scandal at its training headquarters in Texas. Dozens of young female recruits and

airmen at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio were victimized by their instructors who sexually harassed, improperly touched or raped them.

During January testimony before a House committee, Welsh likened sexual assault in the Air

Force's ranks to a cancer and vowed to tackle the problem by screening personnel more carefully and putting an end to bad behaviors like binge drinking that can lead to misconduct.

But Welsh also acknowledged that the Air Force recorded a

disturbing number of reports of sexual assault last year even as it worked to curb misconduct. The preliminary figures for 2012 show there were nearly 800 reports of cases, ranging from inappropriate touching to rape, according to Welsh. That would be a nearly 30 percent increase from 2011, when 614 cases were reported. The 2012 figures are being audited and will be included in a report the Defense Department will submit to Congress next month.

In his letter to Boxer, Hagel refers to Franklin as the "convening authority," a term for a commander who is responsible for establishing a court-martial. The Uniform Code of Military Justice gives a convening authority the "sole discretion" to reduce or set aside guilty verdicts and sentences, or to reverse a jury's verdict.

Wilkerson was convicted on Nov. 2 by a military panel on charges of abusive sexual contact, aggravated sexual assault and three instances of conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman. The incident involved a civilian employee. Wilkerson was sentenced to a year in prison and dismissal from the service.

But Franklin exercised his discretion and reviewed the case over a three-week period and concluded "that the entire body of evidence was insufficient to meet the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt," Hagel wrote.

Senate Democrats unveil government funding bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top Senate Democrats and Republicans Monday night released a catchall government funding bill that denies President Barack Obama new money for implementing signature first-term accomplishments like new regulations on Wall Street and his expansion of government health care subsidies but provides modest additional funding for domestic priorities like health research and highway projects.

Monday's measure is the product of bipartisan negotiations and is the legislative vehicle to fund the day-to-day operations of government through Sept. 30—and prevent a government shutdown when current funding runs out March 27.

It sets a path for government in the wake of across-the-board spending cuts that took effect March 1. In most cases the minor changes in agency budgets amount to housekeeping within a trillion-dollar cap for the day-to-day operations of agencies in the current budget year.

Passage in the Senate this week seems routine and could presage an end to a mostly overlooked battle between House Republicans and Obama and his Senate Democratic allies

over the annual spending bills required to fund federal agency operations.

The measure expands upon House GOP legislation that passed last week, adding sometimes symbolic funding and flexibility for scores of programs and challenges House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who warned Democrats last week not to load the measure up too much.

But each of the additional items was drawn from earlier informal House-Senate agreements, and top Senate Appropriations Committee Republican Richard Shelby of Alabama has signed on.

The bipartisan measure comes as Washington girds for weeks of warfare over the budget for next year and beyond as both House and Senate Budget Committees this week take up blueprints for the upcoming 2014 budget year.

The first salvo in that battle is coming from House Republicans poised to release on Tuesday a now-familiar budget featuring gestures to block "Obamacare," turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for future retirees and sharply curb Medicaid and domestic agency budgets.

Report: Half a trillion needed to update schools

WASHINGTON (AP)—America's schools are in such disrepair that it would cost more than \$270 billion just to get elementary and secondary buildings back to their original conditions and twice that to get them up to date, a report released Tuesday estimated. In a foreword to the report, former President Bill Clinton said "we are still struggling to provide equal opportunity" to children and urged the first federal study of school buildings in almost two decades.

Clinton and the Center for Green Schools urged a Government Accountability Office as-

essment on what it would take to get school buildings up to date to help students learn, keep teachers healthy and put workers back on the jobs. The last such report, issued in 1995 during the Clinton administration, estimated it would take \$112 billion to bring the schools into good repair and did not include the need for new buildings to accommodate the growing number of students.

The Center for Green Schools' researchers reviewed spending and estimates schools spent \$211 billion on upkeep between 1995 and 2008. During

that same time, schools should have spent some \$482 billion, the group calculated based on a formula included in the most recent GAO study.

That left a \$271 billion gap between what should have been spent on upkeep and what was, the group reported. Each student's share? Some \$5,450.

To update and modernize the buildings, the figure doubles, to \$542 billion over the next decade.

"We have a moral obligation," said Rachel Gutter, director of the group affiliated with the U.S. Green Building

Council. "When we talk about a quality education, we talk about the 'who' and the 'what'—teachers and curriculum—but we don't talk about the 'where.' That needs to change."

Her organization is urging the Education Department to collect annual data on school buildings' sizes and ages, as well as property holdings. The group also wants the Education Department's statistics branch to keep tabs on utility and maintenance bills.

"It's a secret that we're keeping because it's shameful and embarrassing to us as a country," Gutter said.

Owner: SUV in Ohio crash that killed 6 was stolen

WARREN, Ohio (AP)—Investigators on Monday tried to piece together what eight teenagers crammed into a stolen SUV were up to before the vehicle flipped over into a pond, killing six of them.

Authorities gave few details on where the group of friends had been and why they were out around daybreak Sunday, speeding down a two-lane road. On Monday, the SUV's owner met with police and filed a stolen-car report; police said none of the teens was related to the owner or had asked to use the vehicle.

Whether all the teens knew

the SUV was stolen wasn't clear. Neither was their whereabouts before the crash.

While the father of one of the dead said the teenagers were coming home from a sleepover at a friend's house, the mother of another boy killed said that her son and his best friend had lied about staying over at each other's homes that evening. She said she thinks they went to a party.

"If only he had listened," said Lisa Williamson, mother of 14-year-old Brandon Murray. "I told him, 'Don't you go nowhere.' But they're kids."

The SUV hit a guardrail in an

industrial section of town and landed upside down in about 5 feet of water, filling up within minutes, State Highway Patrol Lt. Brian Holt said. Five boys and a young woman, ages 14 to 19, were killed.

Two boys smashed a rear window, wriggled out of the wreckage and swam away, then ran a quarter-mile to a home to call 911, authorities said. Brian Henry, 18, and Asher Lewis, 15, suffered only minor injuries.

Investigators said they believe excessive speed was a key factor in the crash, which took place in a 35 mph zone alongside a steel mill near

what's known in the neighborhood as "Dead Man's Curve." Authorities did not say how fast the SUV was going. They were also awaiting the results of drug and alcohol tests.

All eight teenagers were from Warren, a mostly blue-collar city of 41,000 near the Pennsylvania line, about 60 miles east of Cleveland.

Friends and family members described the teens as good kids who weren't troublemakers. Williamson said many of them would hang out and stay overnight in her basement to play video games, listen to music and watch movies.

Asia

NKorea's Kim visits front-line troops amid tension

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's young leader urged front-line troops to be on "maximum alert" for a potential war as a state-run newspaper said Pyongyang had carried out a threat to cancel the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War.

Kim Jong Un told artillery troops stationed near disputed waters that have seen several bloody clashes in past years that "war can break out right now," according to a report by North Korean state media.

Kim's visit and the armistice claim are part of a torrent of angry North Korean rhetoric that has followed last week's U.N. sanctions over Pyongyang's Feb. 12 nuclear test. Pyongyang has also vowed to strike the United States with nuclear weapons.

It is unclear, however, what will come next and whether North Korea will match its words with action. South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday there were no signs that North Korea would attack or conduct more nuclear or missile tests anytime soon and that Pyongyang was merely trying to apply "psychological pressure" on the South.

A U.N. spokesman said that Pyongyang cannot unilaterally dissolve the armistice, which is still valid. Pyongyang is also years away from acquiring the smaller, lighter nuclear warheads needed to pose a credible nuclear missile threat to the United States.

Indeed, several signs pointed to business as usual between the Koreas—despite the bluster.

North Korea apparently cut one telephone and fax hotline at a village straddling the Demilitarized Zone between the coun-



South Korean Army soldiers sit on their K-9 self-propelled artillery vehicle during an exercise against possible attacks by North Korea near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, Monday, March 11, 2013.

US worried by NK threats, imposes new sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration expressed heightened concern Monday over threats of war from nuclear-armed North Korea and issued new sanctions against the communist nation's primary exchange bank and several senior government officials.

In the last three months, Pyongyang, under its enigmatic young leader Kim Jong Un, has defied the United States and other world powers by testing an intercontinental ballistic

missile and testing a third nuclear bomb. Its latest salvo: a declaration carried through state media that it was canceling the 60-year armistice that maintains peace on the Korean peninsula.

Washington is walking a tight line. It is trying not to overplay the danger from an attention-seeking regime infamous for its bluster but has to take the North's threats of possible military action seriously. The U.S. also is treaty-bound to provide support for South

Korea or Japan in the event of any aggression.

"We are certainly concerned by North Korea's bellicose rhetoric," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters Monday. "The threats that they have been making follow a pattern designed to raise tension and intimidate others. The DPRK will achieve nothing by threats or provocation, which will only further isolate North Korea and undermine international efforts to ensure peace and stability in northeast Asia."

In an effort to combat North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs, the Obama administration issued a series of sanctions Monday.

The Treasury Department designated North Korea's Foreign Trade Bank as a WMD proliferator and imposed similar punitive measures against Paek Se-Bong, the chairman of North Korea's Second Economic Committee, which oversees production of North Korea's ballistic missiles.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH, clan discuss ways to end Sabah crisis

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Muslim royal clan leader met a top Philippine government official to discuss possible ways of resolving a deadly crisis that started when his brother and 200 others invaded a village in Malaysia's Sabah state to revive an old claim to the territory. Esmail Kiram II told The Associated Press on Monday that he told Interior Secretary Mar Roxas that Malaysia needed to agree to a cease-fire to allow talks aimed at resolving the weekslong Sabah standoff that has sparked the worst security crisis in years for the neighboring Southeast Asian countries. He and Roxas declined to provide other details of their closed-door discussion, which included other members of Kiram's clan from the southern Philippines. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak rejected an earlier call for a cease-fire and demanded Kiram's younger brother, Agbimuddin, who led the invasion into Sabah last month, to lay down his arms unconditionally and surrender to his men. The Philippine government also called on him to give up.

Official: Bomb kills 3 soldiers in NW Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—A roadside bomb killed three Pakistani soldiers in a north-

western tribal area near the Afghan border Monday, a local government official said. Another soldier was wounded by the explosion near an army vehicle in Dogar village in the Kurram tribal area, said Javed Khan, a local administrator. No one has claimed responsibility. The Pakistani Taliban often attack soldiers deployed in the tribal region to fight local militants and their foreign allies. The group has waged a bloody insurgency in the country in recent years that has killed thousands of soldiers.

2,800 pigs dumped in Shanghai river raises concern

BEIJING (AP)—A surge in the dumping of dead pigs upstream from Shanghai—with more than 2,800 carcasses floating into the financial hub through Monday—has followed a police campaign to curb the illicit trade in sick pig parts. The effort to keep infected pork off dinner tables may be fueling new health fears, as Shanghai residents and local media fret over the possibility of contamination to the city's water supply, though authorities say no contamination has been detected. Authorities have been pulling out the swollen and rotting pigs, some with their internal organs visible, since Friday—and revolting images of the carcasses in news reports and online blogs have raised public ire against local officials.

China may end long-hated labor re-education camps

BEIJING (AP)—All it took was a handwritten note from police to send Zhao Meifu to a labor camp for a year in China's arid northwest.

The farmer had been seeking redress for decades over a land grab by village officials. Tired of her complaints, police saw the labor camp as a quick way to get rid of her.

"They did not like my mother, so they locked her up," Zhao's son, Guo Dajun, said in a recent interview.

She was locked up in a long-hated and often abused penal system known as labor re-education. Chinese police have used it to lock up tens of thousands of people for up to four years without a trial or a judge's review.

Established to punish early critics of the Communist Party, it was retooled to focus on petty criminals but now is used by local officials to deal with people challenging their authority on

issues including land rights and corruption.

Cases like Zhao's last year have galvanized critics, many of them within the government, and China's newly installed leadership is seizing on expectations for reform.

"There's little left to be debated. It should be abolished right away," said Hou Xinyi, a law professor from Nankai University in the city of Tianjin. Hou serves on China's top political advisory body, which is meeting in Beijing this week alongside the national legislature. Commentators in the media and on the Internet are hoping that some deputies propose that the system be overhauled during the 13-day legislative session, which ends Sunday.

"Only the law should decide on a citizen's personal freedom," Hou said.

What to do with the system has become a test of Commu-

tries, but otherwise there have been no substantial operational changes, Seoul's Unification Ministry and Joint Chiefs of Staff said Tuesday.

There are at least two other working communication channels between the Koreas. As they did Monday, the two Koreas used a separate military hotline Tuesday to allow hundreds of South Koreans to cross the border to a jointly run factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, according to the South's Unification Ministry.

Much of the bellicosity is seen as an effort to shore up loyalty among citizens and the military for Kim Jong Un.

Still, North Korea's anger, and Seoul's stern rebuttals, is boosting animosity and causing worries on an already tense Korean Peninsula. The rivals this week are also holding dueling military drills.

U.S. National Security adviser Tom Donilon told the Asia Society in New York that Pyongyang's claims may be "hyperbolic," but the United States will protect its allies.

"There should be no doubt: We will draw upon the full range of our capabilities to protect against, and to respond to, the threat posed to us and to our allies by North Korea," Donilon said.

Aside from the nuclear threats, Pyongyang has so far only made a somewhat mysterious promise to strike its enemies at a time and place of its own choosing. This alarms many, however, as two sudden attacks blamed on North Korea killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Seoul has responded to North Korean threats with tough talk of its own and has placed its troops on high alert.

nist Party chief Xi Jinping's commitment to advance the rule of law and temper police and other security officials who often run roughshod over the legal system.

Curbing or ending labor re-education would be a boost for legal reformers. The system is frequently used to silence minor government critics and ordinary Chinese like Zhao who are considered nuisances by local officials.

In 1989, officials seeking property for development schemes started seizing Zhao's farmland in Shanzidun village, in the dry yellow hills outside the provincial capital of Lanzhou. She has asked higher-level authorities for the return of her land or fair compensation, to no avail.

In 2010, police sent her to labor re-education for a year; she was forced to do jobs like deshelling almonds but was soon released for health reasons.

World

Conclave to elect next pope opens amid uncertainty

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Cardinals enter the Sistine Chapel on Tuesday to elect the next pope amid more upheaval and uncertainty than the Catholic Church has seen in decades: There’s no front-runner, no indication how long voting will last and no sense that a single man has what it takes to fix the many problems.

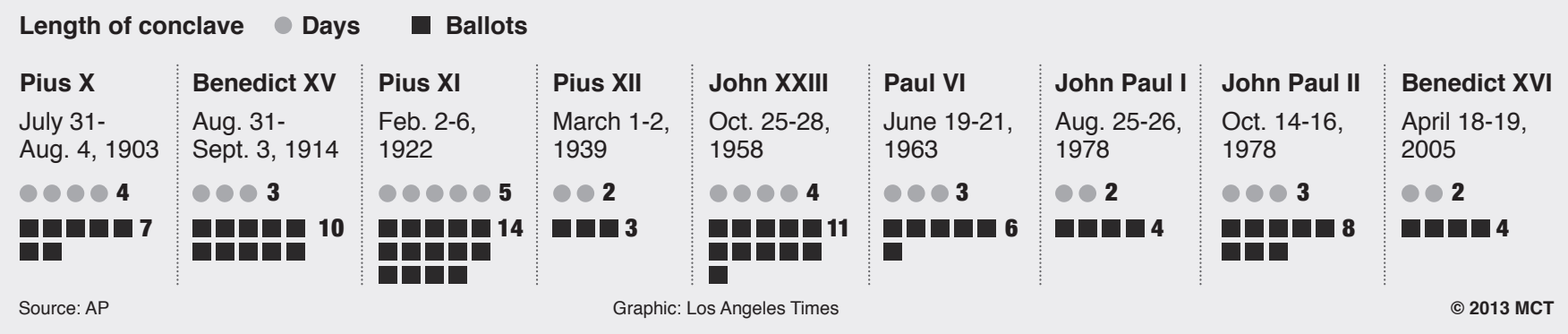
On the eve of the vote, cardinals offered wildly different assessments of what they’re looking for in the next pontiff and how close they are to a decision. It was evidence that Benedict XVI’s surprise resignation has continued to destabilize the church leadership and that his final appeal for unity may go unheeded, at least in the early rounds of voting.

Cardinals held their final closed-door debate Monday over whether the church needs more of a manager to clean up the Vatican’s bureaucratic mess or a pastor to inspire the 1.2 billion faithful in times of crisis. The fact that not everyone got a chance to speak was a clear sign that there’s still unfinished business on the eve of the conclave.

“This time around, there are many different candidates, so

A century of conclaves

Papal conclave procedures follow strict rules and some have lasted several days or weeks. The last 10 have taken only two to five days.



it’s normal that it’s going to take longer than the last time,” Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz of Chile told The Associated Press.

“There are no groups, no compromises, no alliances, just each one with his conscience voting for the person he thinks is best, which is why I don’t think it will be over quickly.”

None of that has prevented a storm of chatter over who’s ahead.

The buzz in the papal stakes swirled around Cardinal Angelo Scola, an Italian seen as favored by cardinals hoping to shake up

the powerful Vatican bureaucracy, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer, a favorite of Vatican-based insiders intent on preserving the status quo.

Scola is affable and Italian, but not from the Italian-centric Vatican bureaucracy called the Curia. That gives him clout with those seeking to reform the nerve center of the church that has been discredited by revelations of leaks and complaints from cardinals in the field that Rome is inefficient and unresponsive to their needs.

Scherer seems to be favored by

Latin Americans and the Curia. He has a solid handle on the Vatican’s finances, sitting on the governing commission of the Vatican bank, as well as the Holy See’s main budget committee.

As a non-Italian, the archbishop of Sao Paulo would be expected to name an Italian as secretary of state—the Vatican No. 2 who runs day-to-day affairs—another plus for Vatican-based cardinals who would want one of their own running the shop.

The pastoral camp seems to be focusing on two Americans,

New York archbishop Timothy Dolan and Boston archbishop Sean O’Malley. Neither has Vatican experience. Dolan has acknowledged his Italian isn’t strong—seen as a handicap for a job in which the lingua franca of day-to-day work is Italian.

Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet is well-respected, stemming from his job at the important Vatican office that vets bishop appointments. Less well known is that he has a lovely singing voice and can be heard belting out French folk songs on occasion.

If the leading names fail to reach the 77 votes required for victory in the first few rounds of balloting, any number of surprise candidates could come to the fore as alternatives.

It all starts Tuesday with the cardinals checking into the Santa Marta residence on the edge of the Vatican gardens. The rooms are simple and impersonal, but a step up from the cramped conditions the cardinals faced before the hotel was put to use in 2005, when long lines would form at the Apostolic Palace for using bathrooms.

New storm in Egypt over citizen arrests

CAIRO (AP)—An official statement encouraging Egyptian civilians to arrest lawbreakers and hand them over to police has set off a new political storm in a country already mired in crisis.

A senior leader of a hard-line Islamist faction loyal to President Mohammed Morsi said his group was preparing lists of volunteers ready to take over police duties if needed.

The main opposition coalition saw the statement on citizen arrests by the attorney general’s office as a prelude to the substitution of the police by militias belonging to Morsi’s powerful Muslim Brotherhood group and allied Islamist groups who swept to power after Egypt’s uprising two years ago.

“It is now clear why the regime insists on pitting the police against the people and relying on security measures to tackle problems that need social, economic and political solutions,” the opposition National Salvation Front said in a statement on Monday.

Egypt has been embroiled in wave after wave of political protests since the 2011 uprising that ousted Hosni Mubarak’s autocratic regime.

The unrest has been fueled by the entire range of social ills from tenuous security to an unraveling economy and the leadership of Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood. The Brotherhood controls parliament as well as the presidency and has won every election since Mubarak’s ouster.

Morsi’s government says the recent wave of protests sweeping many parts of the country is a conspiracy involving both Mubarak loyalists and the mostly liberal and secular opposition to undermine the authority of a democratically elected president.

The president said in a TV interview aired last month that he would like see more regular Egyptians take the initiative in dealing with protesters such as those who block roads. He has repeatedly warned that while peaceful protests are a given in today’s Egypt, those who disrupt normal life hurt the economy and scare investors away.

The opposition statement recalled the events of Dec. 5 when Morsi supporters set up oppo-

sition protesters camped outside the presidential palace and later arrested and interrogated dozens of them in makeshift detention centers outside the palace gates.

Later, videos posted on social networks showed the president’s supporters hitting and stripping the protesters.

“That, it is clear now, was not unrelated to the plan designed to divide the country as a prelude to the rule of the militias,” the opposition front said.

Former lawmaker Mustafa el-Nagar, a liberal opposition supporter, said the statement by the attorney general’s office would cause more divisions in the country and empower anyone to make a citizen arrest under false pretenses.

Venezuela’s political divisions spill into streets

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Under a three-story-tall banner blaring “You are all Chavez,” Jose Rafael Hernandez crouched low with a can of spray paint, outlining on a wall a black heart and the words “And long live Chavez...”

He and his three-man crew had already sprayed some 20 murals over the past week all over the “23 de enero” slum where support for the late President Hugo Chavez, their “Comandante,” remains rock solid even after his death Tuesday. Dozens of other graffiti crews have also been at work, showing their allegiance in slogans and murals on countless doorways and walls.

“This is how we keep Chavez alive,” said Jorge Luis Gonzales, a state bank accountant overseeing Hernandez’s graffiti crew. “This is going to continue because the elections are coming, and the Comandante needs a big surprise. The opposition has their own graffitiists, and we have ours.”

Nearly a week after Chavez’s death, Venezuelans have shown no signs they’re ready to lower the rhetorical temperature. In fact, the national obsession with politics has only intensified as Venezuelans gear up for April 14 elections pitting Chavez successor Nicolas Maduro against opposition candidate Gov. Henrique Capriles.

All over this gritty capital built amid rolling hills, evidence of

more than a decade of political warfare over Chavez and his socialist legacy is everywhere, from murals and billboards to even the T-shirts and caps worn by people in the city’s chaotic streets.

In the eastern half of Caracas, which has long been known as an opposition stronghold, neighborhoods exploded in fireworks and car-honking Sunday night when Capriles launched his candidacy by accusing Maduro of using Chavez’s death for political gain.

On the back of a barbecue shack in the neighborhood of Marquez, a mural with orange-and-yellow flames pleaded “Something Different!” while Capriles’ youthful face looked out of nearby graffiti. Chavez images were conspicuously absent.

“I’m thinking that we’ll have continuity for three years, more or less, and then real democracy will come,” predicted Jose Garnica, a business owner reading the newspaper on a park bench.

He said the government had seized an apartment building he owned in the city center to house poor families and had only offered to pay him a pittance for it. He is still fighting to receive full compensation.

“This population is split 50-50,” Garnica said, “and the government has fooled much of the poor here. What we need now is a change of government, not a socialist government but a democratic one.”

Falklands vote shows 99.8 pct. want to stay British

STANLEY, Falkland Islands (AP)—An overwhelming 99.8 percent of Falkland Islands voters have backed keeping their government just the way it is: a British Overseas Territory.

Of the 1,517 valid votes cast, only 3 islanders voted “no” to the question: “Do you wish the Falkland Islands to retain their current political status as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom?” One vote was somehow lost, officials said Monday.

The referendum was aimed at showing the world that the residents’ self-determination must be considered in any discussion about the future of the remote South Atlantic islands

that are claimed by both Britain and Argentina.

Elections officials reported a 92 percent turnout among the approximately 1,650 Falkland Islands voters eligible to cast ballots in the referendum. International election observer Juan Henao said the process was completely normal.

The islands’ 2,563 residents did all they could ahead of the vote to show their sympathies, waving Union Jack flags and dressing up in red-white-and-blue.

“The referendum will show the world how we feel, that we are British and that we wish to remain British. We don’t want to have nothing to do with Ar-

gentina, at all,” islander Barry Nielson said as he voted.

The ballot didn’t consider any alternatives, such as full independence or some sort of political relationship with Argentina. The Falkland Islands Government had said that if a majority said “no,” they could explore alternatives in a second vote later.

The government barred from voting any visiting contractors or personnel from the sizeable British military deployment, as well as anyone who had not resided in the islands for the last 12 months, thus excluding several people with islander status who have chosen to live in Argentina.

Argentines consider the “Is-

las Malvinas” to be part of their national territory, taken from them by the British more than 180 years ago. One group at the iconic obelisk in Buenos Aires said Monday that it had gathered 100,000 signatures supporting Argentina’s claim to the territory and the resource-rich seas that surrounds the archipelago.

The islands’ community, which includes families that have worked the land for nine generations, is steeped in British culture, and British Prime Minister David Cameron wrote in the tabloid The Sun on Sunday that “as long as the Falklanders want to stay British, we will always be there to protect them. They have my word on that.”

Campus Life

Green Meadow School students excel at Math Court

It was reported that over 700 students from public and private schools participated in the March 2, 2013, Math Court held at Kagman Elementary School. It was a great day for a small team of competing students from Green Meadow School. Once again, GMS kindergarten students won top honors and the first graders similarly did a stellar job by bringing home major honors. The second and third grade contestants also did a great job.

Green Meadow School congratulates all its contestants and commends the coaches and parents for an excellent job in preparing the students for the contest.

■ KINDERGARTEN

1st place: Jasmyne Tolentino

1st place: Jhaylin Cruz

1st place: Chealzka Navarro

■ FIRST GRADE

1st place: Patrick Gregorio

1st place: Areeza Anda

2nd place: Andrielle Coloma

3rd place: Nicole Sacramento

3rd place: Jeremiah Alfred

■ SECOND GRADE

3rd place: Kezia Arugay

3rd place: Angeline Faith Cacdac

3rd place: Kyna Margaret Sales

■ THIRD GRADE

3rd place: Aljanah Manabat



Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla poses with coaches Ana Lisa Quiambao and Sony Natividad and with the winning students at the recent Math Court tilt held at Kagman Elementary School.

COACHES: Sony Natividad and Ana Liza Quiambao

EUCON reaps good results at Math Court

Eucon International School was finally able to join the Math Court competition on March 2, 2013, at Kagman Elementary School. The students did really well considering it was their only chance to prove themselves before the Regionals. So a big congratulations is in order to the following winners!

■ FIRST GRADE

1st place: Nicole Obnimaga

1st place: Joseph Victor Jimenez

1st place: Paul Angelo Santos

2nd place: Kiara Leigh Bautista

■ SECOND GRADE

1st place: Dane Hodges

1st place: Allia Raine Pillarina

■ THIRD GRADE

2nd place: Joanah Victoria Jimenez

3rd place: Michelle Jeon

4th place: Gayle Noreen Vidal

■ FOURTH GRADE

1st place: Victoria Santos

2nd place: William Minami

3rd place: Alan Matutino

3rd place: Chisa Kobayashi

■ FIFTH GRADE

1st place: James Reyes

2nd place: Ao Feng Zheng

2nd place: Song Song Boem

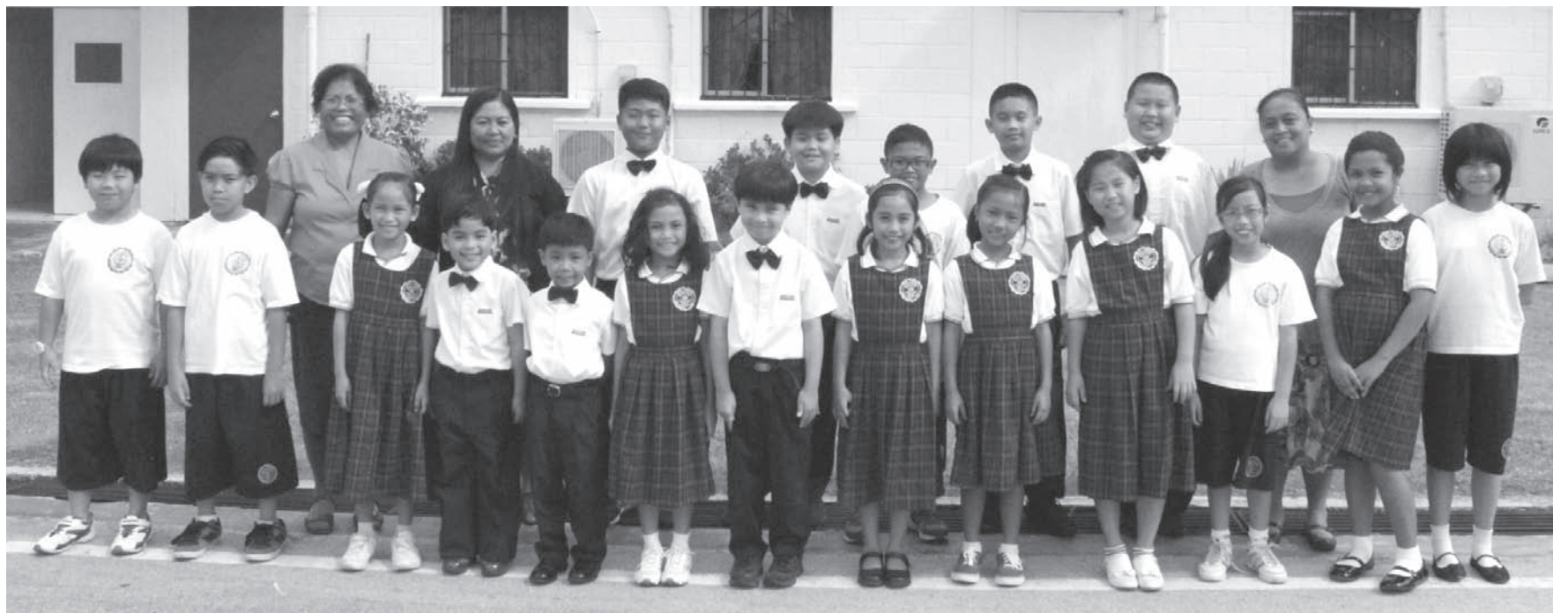
4th place: Juancho Siasoyco

4th place: Jan Matthew Millo

A big thanks for coaches Mrs. Siasoyco, Mrs. Kakuse,

and Mrs. Miral for their diligence and patience, and invaluable guidance. The EUCON community is very proud for all your achievements and

contribution in motivating and molding our students. We also appreciate the support of our parents and the event organizers. **(PR)**



Eucon International School students who participated in the Math Court competition on March 2, 2013, at Kagman Elementary School have their picture taken inside the school campus.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Kagman schools issue progress reports today

All three Kagman Schools—Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School, and Kagman High School—will be having their third quarter mid-progress report today, March 13, 2013, from 3pm to 6pm at the KagES campus. This will be a half day for students. Students in grades 1 - 12 will be released at noon. Kindergarten students will be released for pick up at 11am. All parents and guardians are asked to report to the cafeteria first at 3pm for a brief PTSA meeting.

On March 14, 2013, Kagman

Elementary School and Kagman High School faculty and staff will be attending an Accreditation Work Session from 1pm to 4:30pm at their respective schools. This will be a half-day for students. Students (except for those in kindergarten) will be released at noon. Kindergarten students will be released for pick up at 11am. **(PR)**

Half-day session today at Kagman High

Kagman High School will have a half-day session today, March 13, 2013, for the release of the progress reports and a PTSA meeting. Students will

be released at 12pm. The PTSA meeting will be from 3pm to 3:30pm and the progress reports will be issued from 3:30pm to 6pm at the Kagman Elementary School campus.

Kagman High will also have a half-day session on Thursday, March 14, 2013, for its accreditation meeting preparation this school year. Students will be released at 12pm.

For any questions, contact the main office at 237-3907/3834. **(PR)**

Half-day session today at Kagman Elementary

Today, March 13, 2013, is a

half-day session for Kagman Elementary School students. They will be released at 12pm. At 3pm to 3:30pm, there will be a PTSA meeting at the cafeteria and from 3:30pm to 6:30pm will be the distribution of the third quarter mid-progress reports.

Thursday, March 14, 2013, is also a half-day session for KagES students; they will be released at 12pm. The school will have an accreditation work session from 1pm to 4:30pm.

For more information, call 664- 3913 or 237-3965 or email ruth.calvo@cnnmipss.org. **(PR)**

Marianas High School

PTA meeting

This is to inform all parents and guardians of Marianas High School (Dolphin family) that there will be a PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, at 6pm at the Dolphin Theater. Important issues will be discussed. There will also be performances by our own students. Your attendance is greatly appreciated. **(PR)**

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held

in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). **(UOG)**

Life & Style

What you Like on Facebook can be revealing

By RAPHAEL SATTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Clicking those friendly blue “like” buttons strewn across the Web may be doing more than marking you as a fan of Coca-Cola or Lady Gaga.

It could out you as gay.

It might reveal how you vote.

It might even suggest that you’re an unmarried introvert with a high IQ and a weakness for nicotine.

That’s the conclusion of a study published Monday in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Researchers reported analyzing the likes of more than 58,000 American Facebook users to make guesses about their personalities and behavior, and even whether they drank, smoked, or did drugs.

Cambridge University researcher David Stillwell, one of the study’s authors, said the results may come as a surprise.

“Your likes may be saying

more about you than you realize,” he said.

Facebook launched its like button in 2009, and the small thumbs-up symbol has since become ubiquitous on the social network and common across the rest of the Web as well. Facebook said last year that roughly 2.7 billion new likes pour out onto the Internet every day—endorsing everything from pop stars to soda pop. That means an ever-expanding pool of data available to marketers, managers, and just about anyone else interested in users’ inner lives, especially those who aren’t careful about their privacy settings.

Stillwell and his colleagues scooped up a bucketful of that



In this Dec. 13, 2011 file photo, a sign with Facebook’s “Like” logo is posted at Facebook headquarters near the office for the company’s User Operations Safety Team in Menlo Park, Calif.

data in the way that many advertisers do—through apps. Millions of Facebook users have surveyed their own personal traits using applications including a program called myPersonality. Stillwell, as owner of the app, has received revenue from it, but declined to say how much.

His study zeroed in on the 58,466 U.S. test takers who had also volunteered access to their likes.

When researchers crunched the “like” data and compared their results to answers given in the personality test, patterns emerged in nearly every direction. Since the study involved people who volunteered access to their data, it’s unclear if the trends would apply to all Facebook users.

The study found that Facebook likes were linked to sexual orientation, gender, age, ethnicity, IQ, religion, politics and cigarette, drug, or alcohol use. The likes also mapped to relationship status, number of Facebook friends, as well as half a dozen different personality traits.

Some likes were more revealing than others. Researchers could correctly distinguish between users who identified themselves as black or white 95 percent of the time. That success rate dropped to a still impressive 88 percent when trying to guess whether a male user was homosexual, and to 85 percent when telling Democrats from Republicans. Identifying drug users was far trickier—researchers got that

right only 65 percent of the time, a result scientists generally describe as poor. Predicting whether a user was respectively a child of divorce was even dicier. With a 60 percent success rate, researchers were doing just slightly better than random guesses.

The linkages ranged from the self-evident to the surreal.

Men who liked TV song-and-dance sensation “Glee” were more likely to be gay. Men who liked professional wrestling were more likely to be straight. Drinking game aficionados were generally more outgoing than, say, fans of fantasy novelist Terry Pratchett. People who preferred pop diva Jennifer Lopez usually gathered more Facebook friends than those who favored the heavy metal sound of Iron Maiden.

Among the more poignant insights was the apparent preoccupation of children of divorce with relationship issues. For example, those who expressed support for statements such as “Never Apologize For What You Feel It’s Like Saying Sorry For Being Real” or “I’m The Type Of Girl Who Can Be So Hurt But Still Look At You & Smile” were slightly more likely to have seen their parents split before their 21st birthday.

Some of the patterns were difficult to understand: The link between curly fries and high IQ scores was particularly baffling.

Jennifer Golbeck, a University

of Maryland computer scientist who wasn’t involved in the study but has done similar work, endorsed its methodology, calling it smart and straightforward and describing its results as “awesome.”

But she warned of what the work showed about privacy on Facebook.

“You may not want people to know your sexual orientation or may not want people to know about your drug use,” she said. “Even if you think you’re keeping your information private, we can learn a lot about you.”

Facebook said the study fell in line with years of research and was not particularly surprising.

“The prediction of personal attributes based on publicly accessible information, such as ZIP codes, choice of profession, or even preferred music, has been explored in the past,” Facebook’s Frederic Wolens said in a written statement.

Wolens said that Facebook users could change the privacy settings on their likes to put them beyond the reach of researchers, advertisers or nearly anyone else. But he declined to say how many users did so.

For the unknown number of users whose preferences are public, Stillwell had this advice: Look before you like.

The like button is “quite a seductive thing,” he said. “It’s all around the Web, it’s all around Facebook. And it’s so easy.”

In Celebration of His New Life

**RODOLFO
CEPEDA
PANGELINAN**

November 26, 1936 - March 7, 2013

Was called to his eternal rest on March 7, 2013 Cincinnati, Ohio time, at Christ Hospital, at the age of 77 years.

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: Jose S. & Dolores C. Pangelinan

Brothers & Sisters: Elphidia Maria Estella C. Pangelinan, Enrique ‘Henry’ C. Pangelinan, John C. Pangelinan, Donald Clement C. Pangelinan

Sons: William S. Pangelinan and James S. Pangelinan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

WIFE: Rosa (San Nicolas) Sablan Pangelinan

CHILDREN & FAMILY

†William S. & Diana C. Pangelinan (Gary & Vanessa (Children), †Rachael Dama, Rachael & Frankie (Children), Yvonne & Mike (Children), Appo & VJ (Child)

Renee P. & John Liggett (Angela & Lunie (Children), Rodney Lee (Child), Brad, Joe, Wil & Ashley (Child) Martin S. Pangelinan (Marvin, Irma & Justin (Child), Willie)

Lucinda S. Pangelinan (Natalie, Nicole)

Mae S. Pangelinan & Francisco T. Santos (Michael, Franklin, Maisha, Rudy)

Donald S. Pangelinan

Rudy S. & Jenny Pangelinan

†James S. Pangelinan & Tomos Delgado (Cory)

Piding P. & Ernest Sablan (Aaron, Ernest, Alton)

Glen S. Pangelinan & Abby Inabo (Gunzy (Children), Corry, Billie)

Brothers & Sisters:

†Elphidia Maria Estella C. Pangelinan, †Enrique ‘Henry’ C. Pangelinan, †John C. Pangelinan,

†Donald Clement C. Pangelinan, Elphidia P. Camacho, Agnes C. Pangelinan, Victor C. Pangelinan

He will also be missed by numerous brother and sister in-laws, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00p.m.

Funeral arrangement is being held at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Thank You to All for your thoughts and prayers.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase

Rosa S. Pangelinan, Children and Families

In Celebration of His New Life

**†Brian Martin
Ballesteros Agulto**

December 28, 1997 – March 11, 2013

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Jeffrey Martin Agulto
Joan Lim Ballesteros

Brother: Brandon Joel Ballesteros Agulto

Grandparents: Joseph Cogure & Virginia Agulto Cruz
Romulo & Lily Beth Ballesteros

Godparents: Eufemio Lim & Barbara Ada

Uncles/Aunts: Joseph Jr. A. Cruz, Vicente A. Cruz, Michael A. Cruz,
Jean Ballesteros, Joyce Ballesteros, Janel Ballesteros &
Jerome Ballesteros

Great-Grandfather: Francisco M. Cruz

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Paternal Great-Grandmother: †Ana Terlaje Cogure

Maternal Great-Grandparents: †Jose Cepeda Agulto

†Carmen Pangelinan Agulto

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, March 15, 2013. Viewing will take place at 07:30 a.m. at the CHC Chapel and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 09:00 a.m. at the CHC Chapel. Interment services will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Agulto and Ballesteros Families

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

IGNACIO MANGARERO SABLAN

July 31, 1926 – March 06, 2013

Was called to his eternal rest on Wednesday, March 06, 2013
at the age of 86 years.

IN HIS NEW LIFE HE NOW JOINS HIS:

Wife: †Maria M. Sablan
Son: †Frederick M. Sablan
Parents: †Elias P. & †Carmen M. Sablan
Parents-in-law: †Antonio R. & †Concepcion C. Mangarero
†Joaquin P. & †Emiliana S. Villagomez

HIS MEMORIES WILL FOREVER LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

Children and Grandchildren

Oscar M. & Marcia E. Sablan (Becky & Emery, Tony & Stacy, Mario & Ashley, Nicolas & Mary Beth, & Carmela & Patrick)
Ernest M. & Elizabeth C. Sablan (Sonny & Belinda, Eric & Therese, John Peter & Nicole, & Ernest Jr.)
Eleanor S. & †Herman Cruz (Yvonne & Rodney, Gordon & Marlene, Geoffrey & Jennifer, Yuline & Kelvin Yvette & Jose, Gary & Doris, Yolanda & Luis)
Jeanette S. & Eleuterio Mesa (Irene, Alma & Sang, Nalene, Katherin, & Annale Preuc)
Esther S. & Michael Fleming (Chancie, Colleen, Michael & Thomas)
Felixberto M. & Cathy I. Sablan (Jared Sablan & Dee Cunanan, Sean Sablan & Liz Beth, Justin & Jadaine, & Seth & Gina)
Louise C. Concepcion / William Ada/†Joseph R. Concepcion (Frances & Francis Taimanao, Keith, Joanna, Shannette, Aileen & Lee, & Naomi & Jordon)
Herbert M. & Kelly Sablan (Brandon, Sarah, Samantha & Colton)
Victoria S. & Brien Sers Nicholas (Brien Jr. & Melissa, Brandon & Cinnabun, Cameron, Efren, & Jalen)
Elizabeth S. & James Ada (Jamie & Benedict & Alexia)
Agnes M. Sablan
Carlos M. Sablan & Michelle Maloney (Lena & Carlos Jr.)
April S. & Glenn Camacho (Vicasha, Jose II, & Lexie Lynn)

Reared Children: (Michael S. Torres & Shoji Masuda)

Caregivers: (Emily M. Dionora, Benette, Julie Manacmul, & Jerry)

Brothers, Sisters & Spouses

†Maria S. & †William S. Reyes
†Magdalena & †Francisco Manahane, & †Juan Del Rosario
†Mariano & †Mariana Sablan
David & Rita C. Sablan
Mercedes M. Sablan
Rudolfo M. & Rosalia T. Sablan
†Henry & Luisa R. Sablan

Reared Parents

†Pablo & Ana Igitol

Reared Brothers /Sisters

(Pedro L. Igitol & †Margarita M. Igitol, & Matilde C. Igitol, David L. & Lydia D. Igitol, Delfina I. & Stanley Russel, Martin L. & Marlene Igitol, Delisa I. & Ken Kato, & Rosa Igitol/Antonio Rogolofoi)

Brothers & Sisters In-Law

(†Carlos C. Magarero, †Pedro & †Kiyoko Kihleng, Emiko M. & Prens Emilios, †Manuel & †Rosalia Tenorio, †Tomas S. Villagomez & Prudenciana, Matilde V. & †Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero)

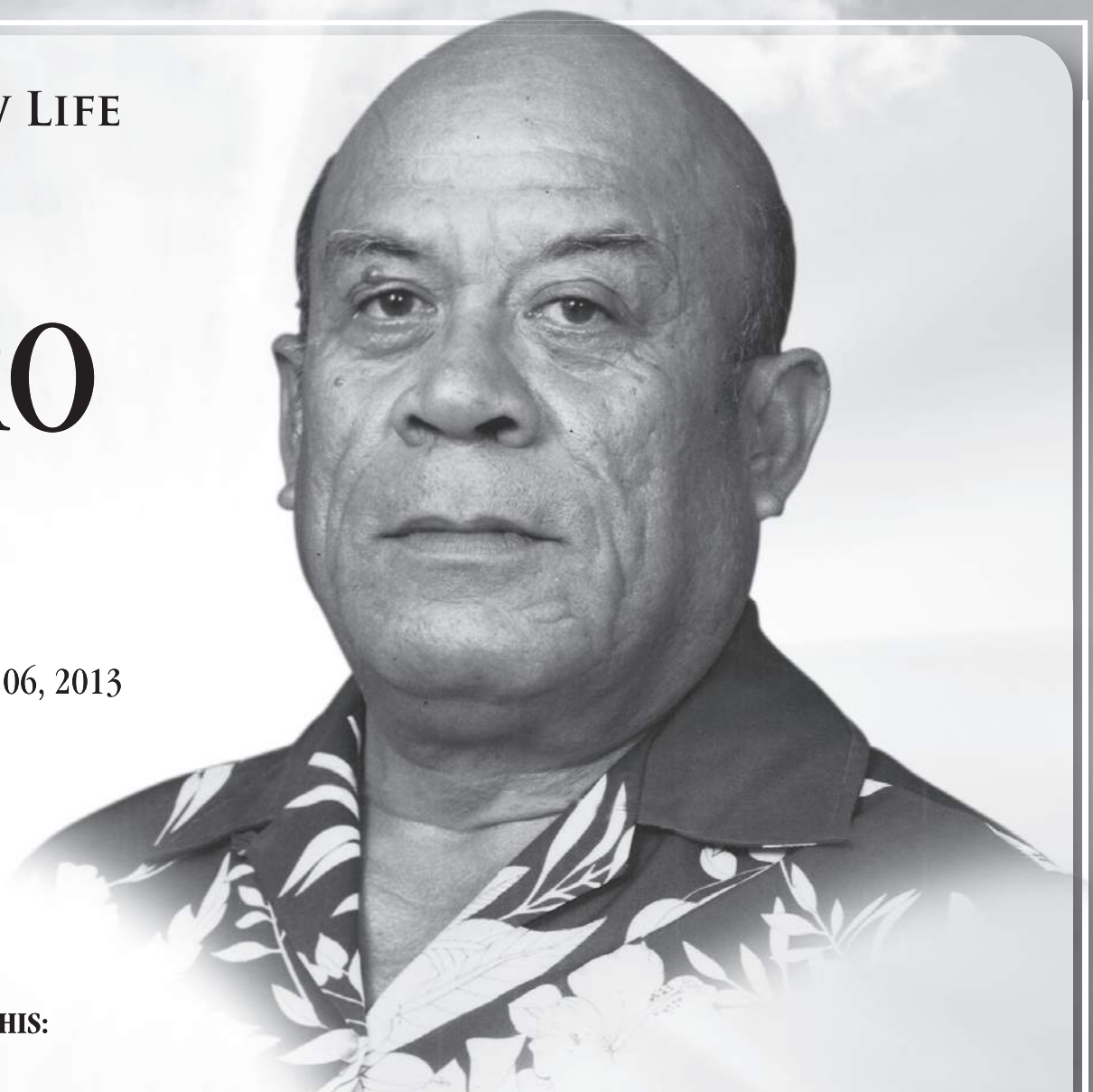
He will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is offered at 11:45 a.m. and Holy Rosary is prayed at 07:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held tomorrow Thursday, March 14, 2013. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by Interment Services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where He will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

Children and Families



Daniel Radcliffe returns to London stage

LONDON (AP)—The time is coming—maybe sooner than you expect—when you look at Daniel Radcliffe and don't think "Harry Potter."

The 23-year-old actor has gone from boy wizard to Broadway hoofer to Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, whom he plays in new film "Kill Your Darlings." He has several wildly different films lined up, and is soon to take to the London stage as star of Martin McDonagh's barbed comedy "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

The play gives audiences the chance to see Radcliffe in yet another new light, as Billy, a disabled orphan in 1930s Ireland who harbors an unlikely dream of Hollywood stardom.

"Cripple," which opens in June for a 12-week run, is part of a West End season of plays overseen by director Michael Grandage, who has assembled an A-list company of actors that includes Radcliffe, Ben Whishaw, Judi Dench and Jude Law.

First staged in 1996, the play is a typically potent mix of comedy and cruelty from the writer-director of the violent, witty movies "In Bruges" and "Seven Psychopaths."

"He walks that line between tragedy and comedy so brilliantly," Radcliffe said of McDonagh.

"I think one of the hilarious things about this play is, by our standards today, how politically incorrect it is," said the actor, looking lean if a tad tired—he's been at the gym, working out ahead of rehearsals for the play—in the troupe's office atop a West End playhouse. "So much of the comedy is just people being relentlessly cruel to Billy."

"I'm trying to write some-



In this Nov. 12, 2010 file photo, British actor Daniel Radcliffe poses for photographs following an interview with the Associated Press to discuss his role in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1.

thing at the moment, and it's just so dark, and I think it's funny, but I'm not sure if anybody else ever would. I aspire to be a poor man's Martin McDonagh."

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the one-time boy wizard is a fan of the edgier end of comedy—and that he's working on a screenplay. His entire post-Potter career feels designed to wrong-foot anyone seeking to pigeonhole him.

The play is Radcliffe's first time on the West End stage since his 2007 run in "Equus," Peter Shaffer's play about a troubled stable boy who blinds horses. It featured the then-teenage actor in a nude scene, which triggered a deluge of "Harry Potter's

Wand" headlines. But critics praised the young actor's brave and committed performance.

Radcliffe said "Equus" was "a signal of intent as to what I wanted to do."

"I didn't just want to take an easy way out of this. I wanted to really try and take risks and make a career for myself."

Since then, he's mixed movies and theater work, including a 2011 Broadway run as a scheming businessman in "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying."

He's shot three films due to come out in the next year. "Kill Your Darlings," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, stars Rad-

cliffe as Ginsberg—Beat poetry, gay sex scenes and all. Radcliffe says he's never been prouder of a piece of work.

He's also filmed "The F Word," which he calls a "very funny, very sweet but also very smart" romantic comedy from Canadian director Michael Dowse.

"I don't want to say (I'm) playing myself, exactly," Radcliffe said, "but (I'm) playing a character that's fairly high-anxiety, slightly hyperactive guy."

He's especially excited about "Horns," a film by French hor-

ror auteur Alexandre Aja ("The Hills Have Eyes," "Piranha") about a bereaved man who grows devilish horns that allow him access to the thoughts and feelings of others.

"It's a love story, it's a revenge movie, it's a horror movie in parts—it's going to be crazy," said Radcliffe, who made an earlier foray into horror movies with "The Woman in Black."

Next up, he will star as mad-scientist's assistant Igor in Max Landis' pop-culture spin on the "Frankenstein" story.

All in all, it's an eclectic list

of projects. Radcliffe says there is a philosophy guiding his career choices, but "it's very basic. It's just what excites me. It's what gets me interested."

"Hopefully later on this year people will start to see some very different performances from me. And hopefully some really good movies," he said. "It's about the movie as a whole, not just people studying my performance and seeing how I'm getting different and how I'm growing up."

Radcliffe accepts that fascination with how he's growing up is unlikely to fade altogether. But he seems comfortable with the Harry Potter legacy, happy to have made the often tricky transition from child star to adult actor.

The "Harry Potter" movie-makers have been praised for creating a stable creative home for their young stars, who went from preteens to adults over the course of eight films released between 2001 and 2011.

"I feel like everyone wanted Potter to be more of a handcuff than it actually was," said the resolutely well-adjusted Radcliffe.

"I think Harry Potter is going to be around for a while—a long while—but as long as it doesn't inhibit me getting parts in the present time, then it's fine. It's a lovely association to have, because it's something I'm incredibly proud of."

"People always say, 'Don't you just want to forget about it?' No! That was my entire adolescence."

Lawyer: Stephen Baldwin to avoid jail in tax case

NEW CITY, New York (AP)—Stephen Baldwin will avoid jail and will have up to five years to pay \$350,000 in back taxes and penalties, his lawyer said Monday.

Attorney Russell Yankwitt said he and prosecutors tentatively agreed that Baldwin, youngest of the four acting Baldwin brothers, will admit in court this month that he repeatedly failed to file his New York state income tax returns.

Baldwin, who starred in 1995's "The Usual Suspects," is accused of skipping his 2008, 2009 and 2010 returns. When he was arrested in December, the district attorney said Baldwin could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

But at Monday's closed-door conference, "The district attorney's office and the judge made it very clear that Mr. Baldwin will not be going to prison," Yankwitt said. "If Mr. Baldwin

can't work, he can't pay back his back taxes."

Baldwin, 46, of Upper Grandview, New York, was not at the conference.

Prosecutor Anthony Dellacari confirmed that a tentative agreement had been reached on a plea deal but would not detail the specifics. A message left with the district attorney's office was not immediately returned.

Yankwitt said that if Baldwin pays back the money within a year, the case will be discharged on the condition he stay out of trouble. If Baldwin doesn't meet the one-year deadline, he will be sentenced to probation and given five years to pay back the money.

The lawyer said the exact amount to be paid was still being negotiated but was "in the ballpark" of \$350,000.

Yankwitt, asked how Baldwin would get the money, replied, "He's doing commercials,

he's acting, he's out in the public." Baldwin has been heard on New York radio in recent days in a commercial for a teeth-whitening system.

"The economy is not what it was, and Mr. Baldwin is a faith-based actor, which makes it harder to get roles," said Yankwitt, describing Baldwin as a born-again Christian. "In the past, he did movies that portrayed violence and drugs. He no longer does those types of movies."

Baldwin's brother Alec was a star of TV's "30 Rock," and brothers William and Daniel also are actors. When Yankwitt was asked if they were helping Stephen, he said only, "Mr. Baldwin is thankful for the love and support of his family."

Yankwitt said Baldwin got in trouble because he "relied on others," including an accountant and a lawyer.

"He never intended to defraud the government," the attorney said. "The government understands that."

Financial info on celebs, officials leaked online

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities and celebrities were grappling Monday with how to respond to a website that posted what appears to be private financial information about top government officials and stars such as Jay-Z and Mel Gibson.

Los Angeles police said they were investigating how the Social Security number, address and a credit report of the police chief ended up on the site. The site also posted the same information about FBI Director Robert Mueller; the bureau said it was aware of the site but declined to say whether it was investigating.

The site also targeted stars such as Beyonce, Ashton Kutcher, Kim Kardashian and Paris Hilton. Info posted about Vice President Joe Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did not include credit reports but included addresses and other sensitive information.

Social Security numbers posted on Gibson, Jay-Z and others matched records in public databases.

The site, which bears an Internet suffix originally assigned to the Soviet Union, expanded throughout the day Monday to

add entries on Britney Spears, former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and others.

It did not state how the information was obtained or why the 11 people targeted on the site were selected, describing the records only as "secret files." A Twitter profile linked to the site and created after its existence was first reported by celebrity website TMZ included an anti-police message in Russian.

Several of the purported credit reports appear to have been generated last week.

Representatives for each person targeted either declined to comment on the accuracy of the information that was posted, or they did not return messages

seeking comment.

Los Angeles police Cmdr. Andrew Smith said the LAPD was investigating the posting of Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck's information and would also investigate the posting of info on any celebrities who live in the city.

He said confidential information on top police officials has been posted online at least twice before.

"People get mad at us, go on the Internet and try to find information about us, and post it all on one site," Smith said.

"The best word I can use to describe it is creepy," he said about the practice known as doxxing. "It's a creepy thing to do."

'Fifty Shades' author to publish writing guide

NEW YORK (AP)—A new book from E L James will be a how-to guide on one of life's most enduring passions: writing.

Vintage Books announced Monday that James has collaborated with the publisher on "Fifty Shades of Grey: Inner Goddess (A Journal)."

It combines professional advice from the million-selling author and lined pages for read-

ers to set down their own ideas, or "inner goddess." Vintage says the journal will have a soft leather cover, "bonded." Vintage is a paperback imprint of Random House Inc.

James' erotic trilogy was acquired by Vintage last year and has sold more than 70 million copies worldwide. The "Inner Goddess" journal will be published May 1.



Baldwin

2 acts seek compensation for 'Harlem Shake'

NEW YORK (AP)—Two performers who say their songs have been used in Baauer's No. 1 hit "Harlem Shake" are seeking compensation because their vocals have been used without permission.

The New York Times reports that songs from Hector Delgado and Jayson Musson are used in "Harlem Shake," which has become a viral hit thanks to YouTube videos of people dancing to the song.

Delgado's "Maldades" and "Miller Time" by Musson's former rap group, Plastic Little, are said to be sampled in "Harlem Shake." The song is spending its third week on top of Billboard's Hot 100 chart.

Delgado and Musson say they never gave Baauer, born Harry Bauer Rodrigues, permission to use their songs. Both are seeking compensation from Mad Decent Records, which put out the single and declined to comment.

UK queen celebrates Commonwealth Day after illness

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II attended a London reception to celebrate Commonwealth Day on Monday, her first public appearance since she was briefly hospitalized for a stomach illness.

The monarch appeared in good spirits, although earlier in the day she had to pull out of a service at Westminster Abbey. Buckingham Palace officials said the 86-year-old queen was still getting over a bout of gastroenteritis that led to her first hospitalization in a decade last week.

Wearing a mint and silver ensemble, Elizabeth made a brief speech at the ceremony held at Marlborough House in central London. After that she signed a new charter setting out the Commonwealth's values and commitment to equal rights.

The document, agreed upon by the group's 54 member states, commits them to upholding principles, including democracy, rule of law and gender equality.

Earlier Monday, Prince Philip, the queen's 91-year-old husband, attended the service at the abbey, where he was joined by 2,000 guests, including Commonwealth ambassadors.

A prerecorded annual ad-



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth signs the Commonwealth Charter at a reception at Marlborough House, London Monday March 11, 2013.

Boy admits prank call on Ashton Kutcher's home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors say a 12-year-old boy has admitted making a prank call that drew police to Ashton Kutcher's home.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office says the boy admitted responsibility for making a false bomb threat and computer intrusion. He will be sentenced at a later date.

Prosecutors say the boy is also accused of making false calls to the 911 emergency dispatch system involving Justin

Bieber's house and a bank. Those charges will likely be dismissed, but the district attorney's office says the allegations will be considered when the boy is sentenced.

The boy's identity has not been released.

His calls were among several targeting celebrities in the Los Angeles area in recent months in a practice known as "swatting." The pranks are intended to draw large police responses, including SWAT teams.



In this Jan. 25, 2013 file photo, actor Ashton Kutcher, who portrays Apple's Steve Jobs in the film "JOBS," poses at its premiere during the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, in Park City, Utah.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Notorious B.I.G.'s kids to star in animated series

NEW YORK (AP)—The children of late rapper Notorious B.I.G. will star in an animated series about maintaining the hip-hop legend's New York City recording studio. Ossian Media announced Monday that "House of Wallace" will feature 16-year-old C.J. Wallace and 19-year-old T'Yanna Wallace. The Notorious B.I.G., born

Christopher Wallace, was shot to death in 1997. His character will appear in "spirit" and "guide them through the adversities they face" when trying to keep the Brooklyn studio open and out of a larger company's hand. The show has yet to sign with a network, though a representative for Ossian says "a few serious networks are in discussion." Notorious B.I.G.'s hits include "One More Chance," "Hypnotize" and "Mo Money Mo

Problems." The series will also feature guest appearances from other musical artists.

Sheehy, Solomon honored for inspiring readers

NEW YORK (AP)—Gail Sheehy and Andrew Solomon have been honored for books that inspire readers to lead better lives. Sheehy has been voted into the Hall of Fame of Books for a Bet-

ter Life. Her best-sellers include "Passages." The annual Books for a Better Life awards are sponsored by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Authors receiving awards for books published last year include Solomon for "Far from the Tree" and Will Schwalbe for "The End of Your Life Book Club." The prizes were presented Monday night in New York at a ceremony hosted by former "Today" show host Meredith Vieira.

Wife can't forgive husband who cheated on her for years

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married 30 years and have raised four children to adulthood. I recently found out my husband has been having an affair with a prostitute from a strip club. He paid all her living expenses and promised to marry her. She was 26 when it started; he is 56. He told her his wife had run away with another man and that he was divorced. When I confronted him, he lied, lied, lied.

He wants to continue living together and pretend nothing happened. He went to counseling and quit. Then he went to a psychiatrist, who diagnosed him with a "mixed personality disorder." He says he wants to make up for his mistake with me, but all the while he was having unprotected sex.

I doubt he'll ever stop lying to me because he always has. I can't spend the rest of my life looking over my shoulder because this has happened before, although not to this extent. He said he just "led a double life" and he doesn't want to do it anymore. He admitted he did it because he never thought he would get caught.

During this long affair, he was brazen, arrogant and abusive to me. Now he wants to be attentive, but he makes me sick. What do I do?

CAN'T TRUST HIM IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CAN'T TRUST HIM: Only you can decide that, but in order to do it rationally, without anger or vengeance, I'm advising you to make up your mind AFTER some sessions with a psychologist on your own. What your husband wants at this point is far less important than what YOU want. And why you would want to continue in a marriage to an abusive philanderer is something only you can answer.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man who has been single for seven years. I met this guy, "Mark," about 10 months ago and we hit it off immediately. We have almost everything in common except that I'm a Democrat and he's a Republican. We both know how we feel about our political differences and decided to continue dating anyway.

My problem concerns my other gay friends, mostly Democrats, who don't like Mark because he's a Republican. I have tried explaining to them that we overlook our differences and concentrate on the many things we have in common, and they should try to do the same. But they no longer invite me to gatherings and their phone calls have ceased.

I feel hurt and rejected by my closest friends, some of whom I have known my whole life. I feel torn between them and Mark, who is someone I really care for. Is it wrong to continue my relationship with my boyfriend at the expense of my friends?

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

DEAR POLITICALLY INCORRECT: Twenty-twelve was a particularly heated election year, with important issues at stake and negative campaigning bringing out the worst in many people. Now that the election has been decided, one would hope that inflamed emotions will settle down and life can return to normal.

I know several couples who have strong and happy "mixed" marriages in which the spouses do not always agree politically. It is a shame that you would be required to choose between the man you care for and your longtime friends, who want to ignore that there are also gay Republicans.

I see nothing wrong with continuing your relationship with Mark; however, I think it may be time for you to expand your circle of friends if this is how your old ones behave. You'll all be happier if you do. Trust me on that.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Boldin, Harvin traded as NFL free agency nears



On the eve of NFL free agency, trades involving top receivers Anquan Boldin and Percy Harvin grabbed the headlines.

In an odd twist Monday, Boldin went from the Ravens to the San Francisco 49ers, the team he helped Baltimore beat 34-31 in last month's Super Bowl.

Harvin, who expressed his discontent in Minnesota, was sent to Seattle, where he will join former Vikings teammate Sidney Rice.

San Francisco acquired the 32-year-old Boldin for a sixth-round draft pick. Boldin, a star in Baltimore's run to the Super Bowl title last season, must pass a physical to complete the deal.

"Anquan was a great receiver for myself and for our football team," said quarterback Joe Flacco, who signed a six-year, \$120.6 million deal with the Ravens last week. "It's sad to see a guy like that go, but at the same time, you want what's best for him and you just wish him the best of luck."

"Anquan was a big part of this football team, a big part of this offense. He's one of the main reasons we won the Super Bowl this year."

Boldin had six catches for 104 yards and a touchdown in the Super Bowl victory. He had said he'd consider retirement rather than leave Baltimore. But going to the NFC champions might change his mind.

"It's a business, man. Those things are going to happen," Ravens wide receiver Jacoby Jones said. "I wish Q the best. He's always a Raven with me, and we got something they can't take from us."

Added fellow Baltimore receiver Torrey Smith: "It's not so much about football when you lose someone like that, someone you love like a brother and would do anything for you."

The 24-year-old Harvin, Minnesota's moody and multi-talented receiver, will join the Seahawks for a package of draft picks that includes Seattle's first-round selection next month, No. 25 overall. He also must pass a physical.

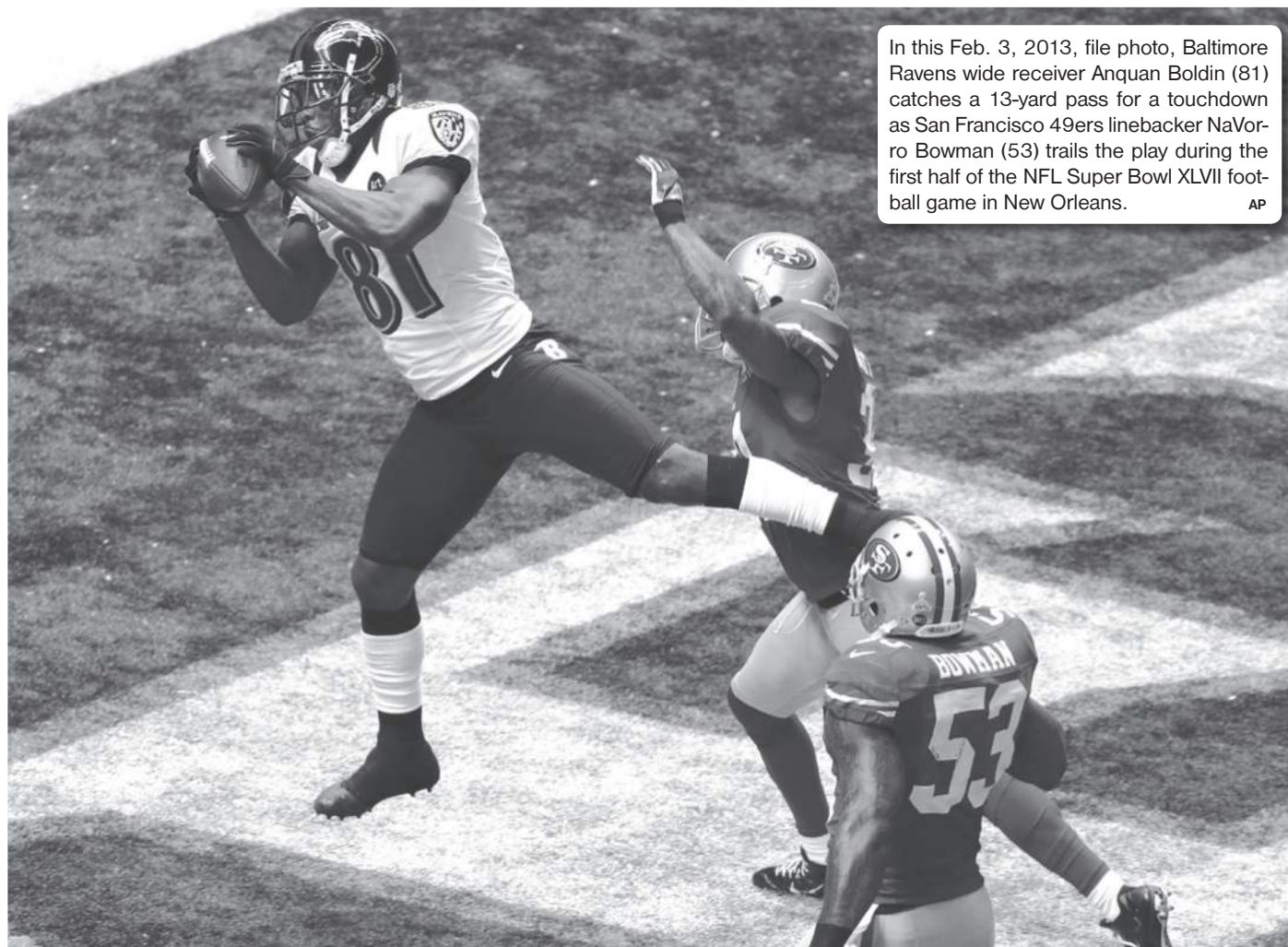
Minnesota will also get Seattle's seventh-round pick this year and third-round selection in 2014.

League MVP Adrian Peterson was not thrilled over the news.

"The best all around player I ever seen or you'll ever see! Goes to Seattle! I feel like I just got kicked in the stomach. Several times!!!" Peterson posted on Twitter.

Harvin was producing at an All-Pro level until badly spraining his left ankle last Nov. 4 in a game at Seattle. He was placed on injured reserve a month later. He led the NFL in total yards at the time of his injury.

Harvin, who also has suffered from migraines, will enter the fifth and final season of his rookie deal with a \$2.9 million



In this Feb. 3, 2013, file photo, Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Anquan Boldin (81) catches a 13-yard pass for a touchdown as San Francisco 49ers linebacker NaVorro Bowman (53) trails the play during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans. AP

salary that's well under market value—unless the Seahawks rework it.

Also Monday:

■ The Giants are allowing Victor Cruz to enter restricted free agency, placing a first-round tender on the wide receiver.

Team owner John Mara said the Giants will risk having Cruz agree to a contract with another club. New York has the right to match any offer. If the Giants allow him to leave, they will get a

first-round draft choice as compensation.

The tender is worth \$2.879 million for 2012 for Cruz, who has not made half of that in his three pro seasons.

■ Cornerback DeAngelo Hall was cut by the Redskins, a casualty of the team's NFL-imposed salary cap penalty. Washington is over the cap because of an \$18 million sanction for the way it structured contracts during the 2010 uncapped season.

Hall had two years remaining

on the six-year, \$54 million deal and was due to make \$7.5 million in salary in 2013.

■ The Broncos released nine-year veteran linebacker D.J. Williams, freeing up his \$6 million salary in 2013 for other needs. Williams missed nine games while serving a pair of NFL-mandated suspensions last season and was deemed expendable after Wesley Woodyard had a breakout season at weakside linebacker.

Denver also released third

quarterback Caleb Hanie, who didn't take a single snap in his one season in Denver, and finalized a three-year deal to keep backup safety David Bruton, their top special teams player.

■ The Jets signed quarterback David Garrard to back up—and provide a challenge to—starter Mark Sanchez. Garrard has not played in the NFL since 2010. He started 76 games in nine seasons with Jacksonville and played in the 2009 Pro Bowl.

■ The Cardinals released run-

ning back Beanie Wells after four injury-plagued seasons. A first-round pick in 2009, Wells showed flashes of the brilliance he had at Ohio State, but has only played one full season—his rookie year.

Wells eclipsed 1,000 yards and scored 10 touchdowns in 2011, but was limited to eight games last season due to turf toe.

■ Dallas released linebacker Dan Connor and restructured the contracts of guard Mackenzy Bernadeau, defensive tackle Jay Ratliff and cornerback Orlando Scandrick.

Connor was one of seven free agents Dallas added in free agency last offseason. He got a two-year contract and started eight games after Sean Lee and Bruce Carter were injured.

■ Tennessee placed a second-round tender on center Fernando Velasco before the start of free agency. If another team offers Velasco a contract, the tender allows the Titans to match the offer or receive a second-round selection in April's draft from the team signing the lineman.

Velasco started 16 games for Tennessee last season with 13 at center and three at guard, and he has played in 49 career games for the Titans after signing originally in 2008 as an undrafted free agent out of Georgia.

■ St. Louis released Quintin Mikell, a strong safety, to clear salary cap space. He was third on the team with 114 tackles and three sacks and three forced fumbles.

Dahl started every game at free safety and had 100 tackles and an interception but struggled in coverage. (AP)

Goodell hopes for lighter helmets, sensors

NEW YORK (AP)—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell imagines a day in the not-too-distant future when players could be checked to determine whether their genetic makeup leaves them more likely to develop brain disease.

They then might be told to switch to a less dangerous position—or give up football entirely.

"In talking to the medical experts over several years, I think there's a predisposition to most injuries, particularly to the brain, or to brain disease," Goodell said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday. "So we do want to know what those biomarkers are."

Goodell also envisions players being required—with the union's OK, of course—to wear helmets containing sensors to detect hits that cause concussions. Those helmets might be lighter and "less of a weapon" than today's, he said.

Those are the kinds of advances the NFL and General Electric are hoping to produce in a partnership that could funnel up to \$60 million over four years to research on head inju-



General Electric Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt, right, listens as NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell talks with reporters at an NFL football news conference in New York, Monday, March 11, 2013.

ries and possible improvements to helmets.

"Imaging of the brain, studying the brain, is still pretty far behind the study of cancer, heart disease, things like that," GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt said. "I look at this as a catalyst in terms of where the technology will go. ... I would say you're going to start seeing really strong activities almost immediately."

Goodell, who spoke to the AP after a news conference at a GE

office building, agreed about the importance of quick progress.

"We weren't looking at a long timetable," he said. "We wanted to see results quickly."

Not long after Goodell was forced to defend the league's concussion policies at a congressional hearing in October 2009, the NFL began making changes. Among them: new return-to-play guidelines; changing the co-chairmen of the NFL's committee on concussions; and, expected for next

season, putting independent neurological experts on sidelines during games.

Thousands of former players are suing the league and its teams, saying that for years the NFL did not do enough to protect players from concussions. Next month, a federal judge is scheduled to hear oral arguments on the league's motion to dismiss.

Such scrutiny "has no impact" on projects like the one with GE, Goodell said.

"This is about looking forward," he said. "This is about the future. This is about changing the way all of our lives are led, whether it's riding a bicycle or playing football or being a member of the military."

In September, the NFL announced a donation of \$30 million for medical research to the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the NIH's fundraising arm.

One influential NFL owner, Robert Kraft of the New England Patriots, is pleased to see these kinds of projects now.

"I wish it had happened sooner. The evolution, the issue has been coming to the forefront and ... a lot of times we didn't

talk about it, or talk about it enough. But we need to talk about it and do something about it," Kraft said.

"Everyone has been spending money in bits and pieces, but now it will be concentrated and this will become a tremendous resource," he added. "I don't think anyone has the answers, how to treat it, whether to continue to play—there haven't been answers, and we need to find the answers."

The Head Health Initiative described Monday, which also includes sports apparel and equipment maker Under Armour, involves a four-year, \$40 million research and development program to find ways to detect and diagnose brain injuries, and a two-year "innovation challenge" that would put up to \$20 million toward research to protect against those injuries.

Goodell thinks helmets can be improved.

"The better protection the helmet provides, sometimes the more likely (players) are to use their head, and that's a dilemma that we have to change, in part through rules," Goodell said. "But I also see that we could potentially change the helmet by making it lighter. (That) would make it less of a weapon."

Splitter helps Spurs beat Thunder, 105-93



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs rebounded from their worst loss of the season with a balanced performance against one of the NBA's best teams.

This was one satisfying victory.

Tiago Splitter had 21 points and 10 rebounds, and San Antonio snapped Oklahoma City's five-game winning streak with a 105-93 victory on Monday night.

"I think everybody played well," Splitter said. "I was one of them. You play well and you feel better. You want to play well against these kinds of teams, these playoff teams. Of course, we've got to stay humble. It's one more game."

Kawhi Leonard scored 17 points, Danny Green had 16 and Tim Duncan finished with 13 as San Antonio (49-15) maintained the Western Conference's top record. Manu Ginobili had 12 points and Boris Diaw added 11 as the Spurs' reserves outscored their counterparts 34-16.

"We had a lot of great play from the bench," Duncan said. "That second squad came in there and kind of changed the tempo and took control of the game."

Kevin Durant had 26 points and Russell Westbrook added 25 for the Thunder (47-17), who have lost six straight in San Antonio. Serge Ibaka was the only other player in double figures, adding 13 points and 16 rebounds.

San Antonio's defense was the difference, turning an evenly matched battle into its third victory in four games without Tony Parker. The All-Star point guard is going to miss another three weeks with a sprained left ankle.

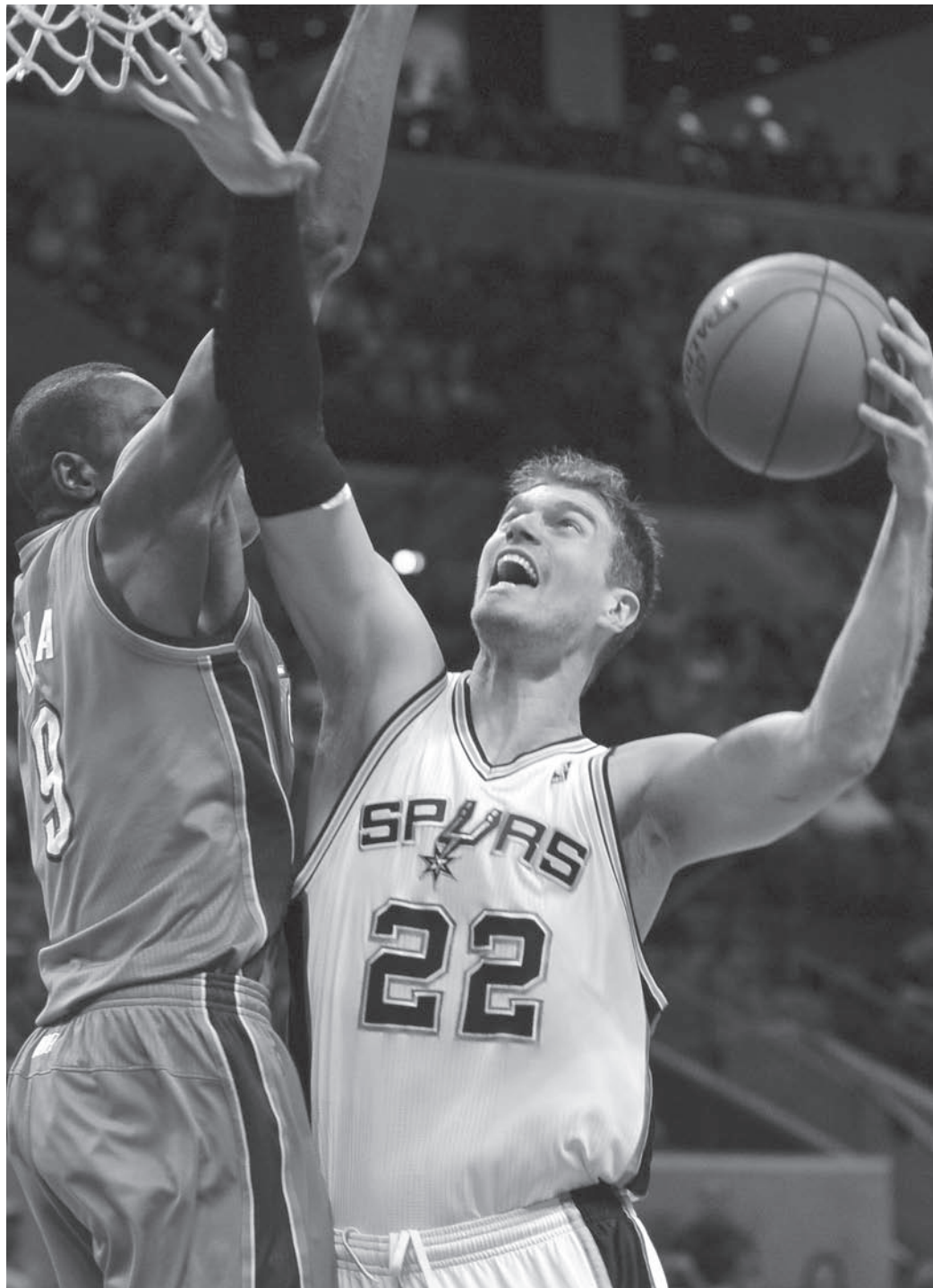
"Normally teams don't push us out so we can't run our offense," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "They did a good job of being physical with us. We're usually in attack mode and we're able to get better catches and better execution. That's something we can get better from. We've always done a great job of watching film and throwing it on the practice floor to improve on."

The Spurs lost 136-106 to Portland on Friday night, with the Trail Blazers setting a record for most points by an opponent at the AT&T Center and handing the Spurs their second-worst home loss ever.

A couple days later, it was a much different story for San Antonio.

Oklahoma City had only two baskets in the opening 10 minutes of the fourth, but was 11 for 12 on free throws. The Thunder went 4 for 20 from the field in the final period.

"We just stuck with it," Duncan said. "It was great to see the tide turn and us turn up our aggressiveness on defense."



San Antonio Spurs' Tiago Splitter (22), of Brazil, shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder's Serge Ibaka, of Congo, during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 11, 2013, in San Antonio.

Durant was 7 for 13 from the field, compared to 11 for 27 by Westbrook. Durant said the shot differential was a product of the flow of the game.

"I can do whatever I want on offense," he said. "I can come down and take 30 shots, but that is not the right brand of basketball for me. I was trying to make the right basketball play. The Spurs do such a great job of making me pass the ball. I was picking and choosing my shots. I trust my teammates."

Asked about San Antonio's defense and the Spurs' run in the second half, Westbrook offered the same terse reply.

"They made some shots," he said.

San Antonio scored the first nine points of the fourth to take a 92-74 lead with 9 minutes left.

Oklahoma City played Sunday afternoon in a 91-79 home victory over the Boston Celtics, but still managed to rebound the Spurs 15-4 in the opening quarter, including a 5-0 advantage on offensive rebounds.

"No team ends up being a really good team without playing good 'D,'" Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "We played very poor defense in the first quarter. It looked like a continuation of

the Portland game. But in the second quarter, we held them to 18 and we played a little more individual 'D,' took a look more pride in it. And the team 'D' was better. It's always about defense. If you don't play good defense, you're nothing in this league."

San Antonio made its first five shots, with Duncan hitting a pair of jumpers over Kendrick Perkins to help the Spurs to a

10-4 lead with 9 minutes left in the first. The Spurs then proceeded to go 2 for 10, enabling the Thunder to rally.

Ibaka drove to the hole and threw in a floater off Oklahoma City's fifth offensive rebound for a 24-14 lead.

After missing their first four 3 pointers, Green hit back-to-back attempts and Leonard hit another to pull San Antonio to 42-40

and force an Oklahoma City timeout. The 3s were part of a 23-4 run that gave San Antonio a 57-46 lead with 41.4 seconds left in the first half.

The run included Leonard stripping Westbrook at the basket, driving the length of the court and throwing down a left-handed dunk as Ibaka began to close in on the right. The basket made it 53-46.

Leonard guarded Durant primarily, and the All-Star attempted only one 3-pointer.

"Just coming out, having confidence in myself to guard him," Leonard said. "You know he's going to score points, but just trying to contest him. Not make it easy for him out there; he knocked down a couple of tough shots in the first quarter, so I just kept trying to move on from there."

Warriors 92, Knicks 63

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry scored 26 points, David Lee had 21 and Golden State routed New York for its most lopsided win of the season.

Almost two weeks after his 54-point masterpiece at Madison Square Garden, Curry shared the spotlight with his co-captain in front of a sellout crowd announced at 19,596. He was 4 for 7 from 3-point range, and Lee finished with 10 rebounds and eight assists after helping the Warriors go ahead by 27 points in the third quarter.

Carmelo Anthony had 14 points and 10 rebounds after missing New York's previous three games because of nagging right knee.

Nuggets 108, Suns 93

In Phoenix, Kosta Koufos scored a career high 22 points on 10-of-11 shooting, mostly from point-blank range, and Denver ran its winning streak to nine games.

Corey Brewer added 20 points and Ty Lawson 19 as the Nuggets matched their longest winning streak of the season.

Denver dominated points in the paint 74-32, including an assortment of soaring dunks.

Wesley Johnson scored 18 and Marcus Morris 16 for the Suns. Hamed Haddadi scored a career-high 13 for Phoenix.

76ers 106, Nets 97

In Philadelphia, Spencer Hawes had 24 points and 10 rebounds, Jrue Holiday added 15 points and 11 assists and Philadelphia snapped a five-game losing streak.

Hawes also had seven assists. Thaddeus Young had 16 points and 10 rebounds in coach Doug Collins' 100th victory with the team.

Deron Williams had 27 points and 13 assists for the Nets, who had won three in a row.

Philadelphia grabbed control in the second quarter and never trailed in the second half. It was a rare feel-good win for a team that had high expectations before center Andrew Bynum was lost indefinitely with knee injuries.

Evan Turner also scored 16 points for the Sixers, and Dorell Wright had 10.

Jazz 103, Pistons 90

In Salt Lake City, Mo Williams scored 20 points and Al Jefferson had 16, helping Utah stop a four-game slide.

Reserves Marvin Williams and Enes Kanter added 14 points apiece for the Jazz (33-31), who moved into a tie with the idle Los Angeles Lakers for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Utah had dropped seven of eight overall.

Rodney Stuckey, Greg Monroe and Jonas Jerebko each had 15 points for the Pistons (23-43), who lost their sixth straight game.

Detroit point guard Brandon Knight sprained his left ankle in the first quarter and did not return. His leg buckled after he was fouled by Jazz guard Randy Foye on a drive to the basket.

It's been a rough couple of days for Knight, who was on receiving end of a monster dunk by DeAndre Jordan in Detroit's 129-97 loss at the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday night.

Zach Greinke has inflamed elbow, gets injection



PHOENIX (AP)—Zach Greinke was scratched from his spring training start for the Dodgers on Monday, went to Los Angeles and was diagnosed with inflammation in the back of his right elbow.

The Dodgers said the 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner was examined by Dr. Neal ElAttrache and that an MRI in Arizona last week "showed there was no structural damage to the ligaments or tendons of the elbow."

Greinke, signed to a \$147 million, six-year contract in December as a free agent, received an injection of platelet-rich plasma and anti-inflammatory medication, according to the

team. The Dodgers said the right-hander will rest for two to three days and then go on a progressive throwing program.

"I've seen (Dodgers president) Stan Kasten here and it

sounds like really positive," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "He had the MRI and there was nothing on it. You had to feel like there was some tendinitis or something going on. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew it wasn't anything major."

"(Greinke) tells you the truth. When he tells us the truth and then it goes into when a guy signs a deal he

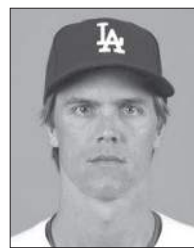
signs it goes into ultra-caution at this point in spring training," Mattingly added. So I think everybody is being cautious and he's being truthful and they want to make sure."

Left-hander Hyun-Jin Ryu replaced Greinke as Monday's starter.

The 29-year-old Greinke was 15-5 with a 3.48 ERA and 200 strikeouts in 212 1-3 innings last year for the Milwaukee Brewers and Los Angeles Angels.

Mattingly said Greinke did not ask to be examined Monday, but it was the club's choice.

"Again, it's to relieve your



Greinke

mind and maybe ours," Mattingly said. "He just kept telling us he was feeling something. When that happens, they are going to make decisions."

Greinke has pitched five innings in two spring training starts, missing one turn because of flu. He was sidelined for the first month of the 2011 season because of a broken rib, an injury sustained while playing pickup basketball during the offseason.

Mattingly said the medical staff would "tell us what we need to do" as far as Greinke's throwing program.

"I'm assuming he's going to be pretty close to what he was when he left off," Mattingly said.

XTERRA

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off Micro Beach in 22:58 (seventh overall) and beating seven pros, including former XTERRA Saipan champions Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom and Renata Bucher. For the bike leg, 14-year-old Castro clocked in at 2:02:17 to finish 21st overall and beat more than 30 riders. He was the youngest biker in the

UNBEATEN

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Brian Camacho started off the uprising in the fourth with an RBI triple and teammates Robert Bansil and A.J. Lizama kept things rolling after a pair of free passes with back-to-back base smashes. IT&E managed to bring in one run in the top of the fifth inning, but the Yankees pressed further ahead, 14-7, in the bot-

SOLO

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ranked Ol’Aces (4-1) marched over Rep. Christopher D. Leon As Matuis Twins (1-3), 13-3, in four innings on Thursday. Last Saturday, Comets I (3-1) stood up its Comets II counterparts, 16-6, and IT&E (1-4) torched Joeten Motors Kagman Ford Rangers (0-5), 27-0, in three innings; and on Sunday Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort (2-1) romped over the Junior Police Officer Program Enforcers (2-1), 8-5; Natibu Sports Association’s Braves (2-0) outlasted Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha’s Store’s Survivors (0-3), 7-3; and the Pinnacle Staffing Rockies (1-1) bested the Jets, 13-1, in four innings. Remaining teams in the age group include McDonald’s of Saipan (2-1) and the Bank of Saipan Red Sox (1-2).

THURSDAY
IT&E Ol’Aces 13, Twins 3
Ol’Aces trotted in front, 4-0, in the opening frame and pulled away, 9-1, after the second inning.

The count shifted to 11-3, in the third and IT&E swiftly worked around the two runs needed to put the mercy rule into effect. The Ol’Aces then held it down on the field in the bottom portion to secure the early decision. Winning pitcher Tyrese Camacho struck out all 12 batters he faced on his four-inning shift. Teammates Jordan Kosam Jr. and Marquin Stevenson both lifted home runs. Kosam Jr. finished with three hits, three RBIs, and three stolen bases. Stevenson logged two hits and two RBIs

SATURDAY
Falcons 8, Little Legals 0
The Little Legals hung tough

championship course. In the run race, 39-year-old Sato submitted 1:15:24 to secure the team’s more than 40-minute win over the trio of Lennosuke Suzuki, Bob Ferrer, and Janet King (4:25:53). Ten-year-old Susuke debuted in XTERRA and posted 33:43 (26th overall), while Ferrer moved up from the sport to the championship course and negotiated the bike leg in 2:11:31 (26th overall). King went on to anchor the team to the finish

tom portion as Brian Camacho blasted a two-run homer to give his team added inspiration for a strong finish on defense. The Yankees would sprinkle on its last three runs in the sixth, eighth, and ninth innings and put out a seventh-inning rally cry by IT&E in the seventh. Yankees’ Brian Camacho batted 4-for-6 for three RBIs, two other runs, and a stolen base. Delos Santos swung 3-for-3 for an RBI, three runs, three bases on ball, and a stolen base. J.R.

for two innings, but the Falcons charmed two runs on the board in the third inning and eventually wore down its rivals after four grueling rounds.

The Falcons gashed the Legals with six runs heading into the last inning of regulation and went on to secure the shut-out verdict. The Falcons cracked nine hits in the game and benefited from four Kagman errors. Two of the Legals’ four base runners were picked off in the path. Falcons’ Koby Lifofoi picked up three hits for an RBI and a stolen base. Jester Kintaro collected two hits for three RBIs. Max Pangelinan logged two hits.

Comets I 16, Comets II 6
It was a tied ballgame at 4-all after the first two innings and Comets II briefly pulled ahead, 6-5, after the third inning until Comets I suddenly dropped a 10-run pile on the head of its colleague to close out the fourth frame. Comets I added a cherry on top in the fifth inning and finished the game with a whopping 14 hits, collectively.

Comets II suffered from some jitters on the field in the match as well and hemorrhaged nine defensive errors, mostly in the nightmare fourth. Elijah Villar was granted the win and teammate Austin Indalecio struck out nine batters through 3 2/3 innings. Villar led the offense as well and jacked a home run, double, and two other hits for three RBIs. Indalecio logged three hits for two RBIs and two stolen bases. Franco Ray Masga bagged three hits for two RBIs. Comets I also stole eight bases in total.

IT&E 27, Rangers 0
IT&E established a daunting 14-0 lead right out of the gate, which was already more than enough to walk away triumphant

line, timing in at 1:39:29. Victoria Chentsova, who ruled last year’s relay with Russ Quinn and Yosh Gabaldon, settled for third place with new teammates Max Simian and Mamiko Oshima-Berger after submitting 4:35:44. Chentsova recorded 23:07 in the two-lap swim leg and was the second female out of the water behind eventual winner Jacqui Slack of the United Kingdom and eighth overall. Simian was next and completed the rain-soaked bike leg under three hours

Suel went 2-for-2 for an RBI, a run, and a base on ball. Fielders’ Pat Tenorio batted 3-for-3 with a base on call. Juan Maratita swung 4-for-6 for two RBIs and a run.

Fielders 15, Angels 12
The Angels held a 3-2 lead after the opening exchange off a pair of RBI singles by Nikko Martin and Nunu Kapileo, but IT&E quickly tied it back up in the top of the second inning from a base rip by Shane Mendiola that

over the developing Rangers. IT&E added an additional seven runs in the second inning and put the mercy rule into effect after another six runs in the third frame. It went on to close the match with the shutout intact. The Rangers were contained to just two hits in the game, while IT&E tallied 14 in the rout. The team was led by Allan Hinson who blasted two homers and a base hit for six RBIs. Mathew Richardson (stolen base) and Christopher Achas both logged three hits and an RBI, while Mike Jones and Kyle Kapileo (two base on balls) each picked up three RBIs. IT&E pitcher Achas struck out six batters through three innings. The Rangers’ green bullpen slung 13 wild pitches in the match.

SUNDAY
Laolao Bay Golf Resort 8, Enforcers 5
The Enforcers broke a 1-1 tie from the first two innings with three runs in the third and added another run in the bottom of the fourth inning for a promising 5-1 advantage. However Laolao came alive in the top of the fifth frame and pulled to within a run. Kagman then found its second wind in the final stand for four huge runs that afforded the victory. The Enforcers out-hit Laolao in the nail-biter, 6-7, but timing was everything as the latter’s offense stalled in the last two exchanges.

Laolao’s Joe Javier spanked a critical double in the fourth inning that perhaps sparked the rally. He finished the game with two doubles and three RBIs. Winning pitcher Pedro Maratita went all six innings with eight strikeouts and a pair of hit batsmen. He also showed some skills with the lumber and picked up two hits. Lloyd Tarope led the Enforcers with a triple and a base hit

with his 2:59:35, while Oshima-Berger was the fastest runner in the relay and seventh in the female division with her 1:11:44. Other finishers in the championship course’s relay were Allan Colinson (28:15), Ric Antonio (2:34:36), and Julia Lendvai (1:36:43), who tallied 4:40:44; the Tan family: Angel Marie (23:08), Samson (2:52:11), and Glorybel Tan (1:33:47), who combined for 4:50:11; and Joshua Berger (37:56), Mark Isip (2:50:43), and Tiffany Lin (1:36:27), who

scored Cadiz Tenorio. The Fielders then nosed ahead, 4-3, in the third inning off an error and pulled on a six-run string in the sixth inning for a 10-3 cushion. They bashed five hits in the sixth, which included RBI singles for Mendiola, Ricardo Dela Cruz, and Jimmy Brel. St. Michael’s answered with three runs in the bottom side that came off one swing of the bat by Jonathan Tenorio, but IT&E got them back in the ensuing frame

for an RBI.

Braves 7, Survivors 3
The Survivors started off with a 2-0 lead after the opening exchange, but ran into a wall after scoring what was its final run in the top of the second inning. The Braves answered with a run in the bottom portion and then knotted the match at 3-all in the third frame. The Braves then closed the deal with a pair of two-run gestures in the fourth and fifth innings and denied the Survivors from posturing a comeback. Survivors’ Glenn Taro pitched a heck of a game and did all he could to keep the door open, but the runs just did not come in the clutch; he lasted five innings and struck out five.

Austin Benavente was credited with the win. He sat down six batters through 4 2/3 innings and made himself a factor on the base path as well with four stolen bases. The Survivors out-hit the Braves, 5-4, but also committed four untimely errors on the field. Braves’ Bradley Camacho logged two hits and two stolen bases.

Pinnacle Rockies 13, Jets 1
The Rockies added seven runs to its 2-0 lead from the opening frame in the top of the second inning and never looked back. They then added four more runs in the third inning to handily defeat the spiraling Jets. The Rockies bashed seven hits in the game and received assistance in the form of five errors by its opponents.

Two of Donavin Ada’s three hits for the Rockies went for triples and bagged him an RBI. His teammate Dai Podziewski logged two RBIs and a hit-by-pitch. Winning pitcher Kenny Diaz Jr. willed six strikeouts in three innings and put 39 out of 48 pitches in the strike zone. He also picked up an RBI at the plate.

checked in at 5:06:38.

Sport course winners
In the 750-meter swim, 20K bike, and 5K run, the trio of Ricky Castro and Jerome and Lawrence Diyco prevailed over the duo of Benjamin and Ben Babauta. The winning team completed the race in 2:16:10, more than 30 minues ahead of the Babautas.

In the individual race division, three Saipan bets completed the sports course. Paul

to maintain a 13-5 lead. The Fielders went on to add its last two runs in the eighth inning and held strong on defense to secure the win. IT&E’s Mendiola batted 3-for-5 for two RBIs, three runs,

ADOBO

From Page 28

ICS Shooters in the final canto, 42-21, to pull off a big come-from-behind win and deny its foe a chance to enter the next round of the competition. Had ICS Shooters won, it could still force a tie with Susupe and JWS for the last playoff berth. Kenneth Quemado led LD Prime’s strong finish, scoring 22 of his 35 points in the fourth canto, while Chris Esteves added 7. Webby Guntar paced the ICS Shooters with his 23 points. He had 8 of his team’s first 10 points when their Feb. 18 match was rained-out and rescheduled with 3:01 left in the first quarter and LD Prime was on top, 10-8. When the game resumed Renan Lansang picked up where Guntar left off, dropping 12 of his 15 markers in the first half to pad the ICS Shooters’ lead to 11 at the break, 37-26. LD Prime trailed in the first half, as it could not get its rhythm and its so-so offense

Plunkett was the fastest with his 2:51:28, followed by Christen Steinkuller (3:11:30), and Derek Chambers (3:29:42).

Taga Kids
Meanwhile, the Taga Kids Triathlon will take place this Saturday at the American Memorial Park. The race will kick off at 1pm at Micro Beach. Entry fee is \$25 and registration forms are available at the Pacific Development, Inc. office at Hafadai Beach Hotel.

and a base on ball. Dela Cruz swung 3-for-6 for three RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base. Angels’ Tenorio batted 2-for-2 for four RBIs and another run. Kapileo batted 3-for-5 for an RBI and three runs.

continued in the third period, allowing the ICS Shooters to stretch the lead to 15 at the end of the third canto. Then in the fourth frame, Quemado anchored LD Prime’s surge, canning three straight baskets, while his teammates began to contribute, too, to foil the ICS Shooters’ playoff bid.

First Game
LD Prime 82 – Quemado 35, Esteves 11, Fleming 8, Toribio 7, Aldan 6, Lapuz 6, Isip 6, Rivera 4, Cerehera 2, Jugos 1. **ICS Shooters 76** – Guntar 23, R. Lansang 18, David 16, Tala 5, Espinosa 4, Corotan 4. **Scoring by quarters:** 12-17, 26-37, 40-55, 82-76.

Second Game
Adobo 95 – Dela Cruz 23, Saturno 17, Yap 14, Aranda 12, Mamaril 9, Vertudez 8, Alegre 8, Camacho 4, **Servitek 65** – Alvarez 16, Detera 14, Esconde 13, Sebuu 10, Villasan 3, Salazar 3. **Scoring by quarters:** 23-13, 47-27, 74-40, 95-65.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES	
NBA STANDINGS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlantic Division	
	W L Pct GB
New York	38 23 .623 –
Brooklyn	37 27 .578 2 1/2
Boston	34 28 .548 4 1/2
Toronto	25 39 .391 14 1/2
Philadelphia	24 39 .381 15
Southeast Division	
x-Miami	47 14 .770 –
Atlanta	34 28 .548 13 1/2
Washington	20 41 .328 27
Orlando	18 46 .281 30 1/2
Charlotte	13 50 .206 35
Central Division	
Indiana	39 24 .619 –
Chicago	35 28 .556 4
Milwaukee	32 29 .525 6
Detroit	23 43 .348 17 1/2
Cleveland	21 42 .333 18
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Southwest Division	
San Antonio	49 15 .766 –
Memphis	42 19 .689 5 1/2
Houston	34 30 .531 15
Dallas	29 33 .468 19
New Orleans	22 42 .344 27
Northwest Division	
Oklahoma City	47 17 .734 –
Denver	43 22 .662 4 1/2
Utah	33 31 .516 14
Portland	29 33 .468 17
Minnesota	21 39 .350 24
Pacific Division	
L.A. Clippers	45 20 .692 –
Golden State	36 29 .554 9
L.A. Lakers	33 31 .516 11 1/2
Phoenix	22 42 .344 22 1/2
Sacramento	22 43 .338 23
x-clinched playoff spot	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

Bike Leg of the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Mieko Carey heads out to the bike course of last Saturday's 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship.



Erico Castro walks his bike out of the swim-bike transition area.



United Kingdom's Jacqui Slack gets ready for another tough climb at Mt. Tapochao.



South Africa's Dan Hugo is all eyes on the rocky road to Mt. Tapochao.



United Kingdom's Sam Gardner pedals up the foggy Mt. Tapochao road.



Austria's Carina Wasle tries to catch up with Jacqui Slack and Renata Bucher.



Switzerland's Olivier Marceau on his way out of the trail and heads to Wireless Road.



South Africa's Bradley Weiss enjoys a cool ride at the bike trail course.



Jerome Diyco lead the bike race in the sports course.



Australia's Ben Allen leads the race up Mt. Tapochao.

**Boldin, Harvin
traded as NFL
free agency
nears**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Splitter helps
Spurs beat
Thunder,
105-93**

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Unbeaten Yankees peel off fifth victory

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Steve-dore Co. Northern Yankees extended its perfect win streak to five after defeating the IT&E Fielders, 16-11, during their Saipan Major League regular season matchup last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



IT&E (3-2) was riding high off a nice 15-12 victory over the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (1-3), 16-11, last Wednesday before stumbling against the Yankees.

The season continues at Tan Ko Field at 6:30pm tonight with the Angels taking on the Tan Holdings Brewers (2-2). The D-9ers (0-4) make up the five-team league.

Yankees 16, Fielders 11

The Yankees managed a 2-1 lead after the first inning with an RBI triple by Jerome Delos Santos that drove in Brian Camacho. He was later brought in off a sacrifice fly by Greg Camacho.

The count then shifted to 3-2 in favor of the Yankees in the second inning as a leadoff walk escorted home Ben Jones Jr.

Then after both teams added three runs in the third inning, the Yankees erupted in the fourth frame and broke out to a 12-6 lead.

See UNBEATEN on Page 26

Saipan Steve-dore Co. Northern Yankees' Brian Camacho, seen here in this file photo from earlier this season, belted his second homerun against the IT&E Fielders in their last SML game last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Adobo sweeps season; ICS ousted

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Adobo and the ICS Shooters had mix fortunes after their separate games in Division B of the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo marched into the semifinals with a perfect 9-0 record, following a 95-65 rout of Servitek (1-8) in the second match of the night, while the ICS Shooters (3-6) was eliminated after a monumental collapse against LD Prime (2-7) in a make-up game, 82-76.

With ICS joining Servitek and LD Prime on vacation, only one more team will be booted out of the competition. The choice will be between Susupe (3-5) and JWS (2-4), which will collide in an important game tonight. JWS will also meet Maplas in a make-up game and will need two victories to advance to the playoffs for the last two semis seat and oust Susupe. Maplas with its 5-3 record is trying to get the second outright semis berth.

Adobo secured the first automatic semis ticket as early as its seventh game and capped its immaculate slate in the round-robin elimination with a bang, following a thrashing of the hapless Servitek.

The division top finisher gave Servitek no opportunity for an upset, establishing an early twin-digit lead in the



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

LD Prime's Chris Esteves goes for an uncontested layup during the first quarter of their rained-out game against the ICS Shooters in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging on Feb. 18 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

opening quarter, 23-13 before completely dominating the match in the last three quarters.

The ICS Shooters also looked promising in the second game when it took a 55-40 advantage after the third period.

However, LD Prime saved its best for last, outgunning the

See ADOBO on Page 26

Youth-dominated team wins XTERRA relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The youthful pair of Kento Akimaru and Erico Castro teamed up with Goshi Sato to top the relay race in last Saturday's 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

The trio timed in at 3:41:44, besting four other teams and earning the distinction of being the only squad to finish the 1.5-kilometer swim, 32K bike, and 12K run under three hours. Twelve-year-old Akimaru started things out for the eventual champions, completing the swim leg in the waters

See XTERRA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Form left, Goshi Sato, Erico Castro, and Kento Akimaru pose with their first place medals during the awards ceremony for the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday night at the Pacific Islands Club.

MAJOR LEAGUE

Solo leader Falcons wing 5-game winning streak

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The red-hot Talaabwogh Stars Association Falcons shut out

Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagan Little Legals (2-3), 8-0, last Saturday to extend its unbeaten streak to five in a row, highlighting Saipan Little League Baseball's latest round of Major Division action at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield.

In other results, Attorney Vince Torres Comets II (3-2) routed Jets (1-2), 12-1, last Tuesday and IT&E's second-

See SOLO on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

An IT&E Ol'Aces batter takes a cut in this file photo from earlier in the 2013 Little League season at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Field.